

Phones strike spreads as Mercury appeals against blacking

Industrial action against the sale of British Telecom is to spread to five cities today, in an effort to put increased pressure on the Government.

The Post Office Engineering Union, which has mainly concentrated on disrupting communications in London, has called on strike strategic staff in Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Swansea and Glasgow.

The escalation of the dispute comes after speculation that the flotation of 51 per cent of BT may be postponed. A central aim of the action was to make the sell-off less attractive to the Government and potential investors.

The switch in tactics also comes on the day that Mercury, the private communications company, appeals against a High Court decision which backed the union's right to refuse to connect the new commercial system to the public network.

The fresh disruption, with the exception of Glasgow, will affect the maintenance of the new PABX switchboards normally installed in business offices. It is not meant to disrupt services to the public, the union said.

British Telecom said yesterday that it would do its best to maintain the service. Some members are sceptical about the support for regional action, but the union says that the initiative for further disruption came partly from outside London.

The union, conscious of British Telecom claims that its actions had a minimal effect on telecommunications in the capital, says that management will find it more difficult to cope with the new stoppages.

The union said yesterday: "British Telecom has trained a limited number of engineers to work on the new switchboards so they will have difficulty in getting other staff or management to cope with the breakdowns."

The strike in Glasgow will seek to disrupt the maintenance of an old telephone exchange which is prone to technical faults.

The union executive is due to meet British Telecom board members later today, when the threatened dismissal of an estimated 39 union members for taking action will be discussed. POEU leaders will assess the situation again tomorrow. The management has threatened to dismiss the 39 unless the union withdraws its campaign of action at its reconvened annual conference next Monday.

It is likely that British Telecom will dismiss all the 2,000 or more union members involved in the dispute unless significant concessions are made.

But any climbdown by the union executive or the conference is unlikely and with another 24-hour strike in London planned this week by the Union of Communication Workers, the dispute is likely to continue.

The British Telecommunications Union Committee, which represents six British Telecom groups, started its £200,000 press campaign against the sell-off at the weekend.

Privatization strategy

Pressure grows to delay sale

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Treasury will have to rethink its privatization strategy if the Government is forced to postpone next year's planned stock market flotation of British Telecom, as appears increasingly possible.

Sir George Jefferson, the British Telecom chairman, is understood to have told the Government that it might be better if the flotation, scheduled for next October, was postponed until 1985.

And while the Department of Trade and Industry repeated yesterday that October, 1984 was still the official target, ministers and officials are known to be worried that it may be impractical to complete the issue by then.

The Telecommunications Bill is not now expected to complete its passage through Parliament until next July, leaving only three months at the height of the holiday season to finalize the complex preparations for the stock market's largest flotation.

The planned sale of 51 per cent of BT's shares is expected to raise about £4,000m. Preliminary planning for the issue by two City merchant banks is well under way, but most of the key decisions that will affect its success or failure, such as the corporate capital structure and key elements of its operating licence are a long way from being resolved.

The growing trade union campaign against its privatization and the misgivings of some

Conservative backbench MPs about the Government's approach are adding to the pressures.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for Information Technology at the Department of Trade and Industry, who is responsible for the day-to-day handling of the issue, has acknowledged that the existing deadline is tight.

The department said last night: "The Government is continuing with its intention to go for a sale in 1984. We have not been given any indication that this is an impossible target to achieve."

The Treasury is expected to press strongly for completion on schedule because the proceeds are seen as a key element in the Chancellor's strategy

Hospital to be refused supply of blood

Health Service unions have cut off supplies of blood to a new private hospital because they fear the blood may be sold to patients or shipped abroad.

The £10m Ross Hall Hospital in Glasgow, owned by American Medical International, is due to accept patients paying up to £190 a day on November 7. It is expected to need 30 pints of blood a day from the Blood Transfusion Service.

But the health unions, backed by the Transport and General Workers Union, are preventing shipment of blood to the 101-bed hospital until the owners sign a contract not to sell it to patients or ship it to other private hospitals in Britain or abroad.

The unions are also demanding that the administration cost of the blood should be recovered from AML.

The "understanding" between the company and the Common Services Agency, which administers and distributes blood, was described by union officers as "totally inadequate".

Mr Gordon Greig, of ASTMS, said: "This is the first profit-making private hospital in Scotland and we have no way of monitoring what happens to the blood."

He said the unions were totally opposed to blood, which was supplied free, being subsequently sold to patients by private hospitals. Donors were continually seeking assurances that their blood would not be sold and the whole issue threatened the future of the Blood Transfusion Service.

Mr Greig accused the Common Services Agency of effectively offering to subsidize Ross Hall by £1,000 a day by not insisting on a legally binding contract.

It is understood that the CSA is sympathetic to the union cause and no blood will be supplied until the dispute is resolved.

The director of Ross Hall, Mr Stuart Byron, denied that the hospital intended to sell blood and said he would be prepared to sign a contract to that effect. But he objected to the CSA imposing a charge for blood.

Last night the hospital began to make alternative arrangements for acquiring blood.



Old timer: Mr Brian Moore and his wife Ruth will be on the road in next Sunday's London to Brighton rally in the oldest privately-owned car ever to enter - an 1891 Panhard at Levens. It is steered by tiller, ignition is by Bunsen burner and top speed is 11 mph. Photograph by Bob Seymour.

Owen seeks nuclear identity for Europe

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen yesterday called for the development of a firm European identity within Nato, covering conventional and nuclear defence and disarmament.

The Social Democratic Party leader said it was no longer credible to argue that such a development would weaken the American commitment or create strains within Nato. The nature, if not the content, of the American commitment had been changing and the strains existed already, he said.

Dr Owen, who was delivering the Gulbenkian Foundation lecture in Lisbon, said: "One does not have to succumb to the current anti-American and predominant anti-Reagan European mood to conclude sadly that the post-war absolute European confidence in the United States has gone. Many Europeans totally convinced of Nato's value now openly express their anxiety about United States decision-making."

He said that the automatic American political dominance of the Nato forum, justifiable in the aftermath of the Second World War, was no longer underpinned by the weight of its contribution to collective Euro-

Guards for wanted man

From Ronald Faux, Sheffield

Police protection has been extended to several people throughout Britain as the search for Arthur Hutchinson continued yesterday.

The man wanted for questioning in connection with a triple murder in Sheffield last week has been described by police as a dangerous, a karate black belt who should not be approached by the public.

A South Yorkshire police spokesman said yesterday that several people who Mr Hutchinson, aged 42, might wish to contact were being guarded "round the clock".

Among them is Miss Nicki Laitner, aged 18, the only survivor when an intruder broke into her family's home during the early hours of last Monday. Mr Basil Laitner, his wife Avril and their son Richard were stabbed to death.

It is now known that Mr Hutchinson, sought by police since he escaped from Selby police station a month ago, spent two days last week at a guest house in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, 22 miles away from the Laitner home. While he was there he kept fit by jogging.

The police said that Mr Hutchinson arrived at the guest house less than six hours after the bodies of the Laitners had been discovered and left the following Wednesday.

They believe that he suffered a possibly severe injury to his right leg in his escape from Selby police station. He left bloodstained bandages in the guest house.

When he was last seen he was wearing a dark blue velvet jacket, light blue shirt, blue tie and grey trousers. He also had a turquoise track suit, blue-grey running shoes and a check shirt.

● South Yorkshire's Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Bob Goslin, said yesterday that Mr Eddie McGee, the survival expert who helped track down the police killer Barry Prudom, and who knows Mr Hutchinson, had offered his services (the Press Association reports).

TUC wants job subsidy for regions

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A new multi-million pound labour subsidy and the scrapping of "discredited" enterprise zones are proposed by the TUC in a document on regional policy to be presented to the National Economic Development Council on Wednesday.

The TUC wants all capital subsidies to be selective, rather than the present system which allocates much of the aid money on a geographical basis, and says they should be matched by the labour subsidy, which is intended to boost job creation.

Trade union leaders also want the notion of free ports to be abolished. The Government has agreed to experiment with the idea and Prestwick, Birmingham and Felixstowe are among the sites into which goods could be imported tax free for assembly, packaging or storage before re-export.

The TUC is also urging the Government to tighten inward investment controls so that incoming companies go directly to development areas.

The discussion document has been produced as a result of the Government's latest review of regional policy and ministers' desire that aid for assisted areas is used more effectively.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will present his own paper to the meeting and he will call for the views of the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry.

He believes that regional policy must improve industrial competitiveness and reduce disparities in job opportunities. There are indications that the old assisted areas "map" is out of date.

In the 1970s about 500,000 jobs were created in the assisted areas at an estimated cost of £34,000 a job.

Pit ballots sought as overtime ban begins

By Our Labour Reporter

Moderate miners' leaders will this week increase pressure on their executive to hold pit-head ballots on the national overtime ban began early today.

The right-wing Midlands area council of the National Union of Mineworkers started the move at the weekend by demanding that the ban be put to the vote. The union's executive is not due to reassess the action until November 10.

The overtime ban in protest at the National Coal Board's first and "final" pay offer of 5.2 per cent was unanimously agreed by a delegate conference in London days ago.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the coalboard chairman, is keen on a pit-head ballot because he expects a vote against the ban.

But under NUM rules, only a national strike would require a referendum, and there would have to be a 55 per cent majority to initiate action.

Mr MacGregor believes that the 50 million tonnes of coal stockpiled at pits and power stations will prove an effective argument against militancy.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, contends that a pay rise of 23 per cent is necessary to bring pit men's earnings back to their level after the 1974 strike.

Union strategists also believe that militancy will increase if they can delay a ballot. They predict that the NCB will announce further mine closures in the coming weeks.

The coal board pointed out that in the only ballot so far conducted, at Rufford Colliery near Mansfield, 65 per cent of miners agreed to accept the board's offer.

But a substantial majority voted for the overtime ban on the grounds that it would deter pit closures.

Divorce to be made quicker

By Robert Morris

Changes in the divorce laws to be announced soon are expected to include provisions for quicker divorces and fewer long-standing financial commitments.

The three main features of a Bill, which may be introduced in the House of Lords next week, are:

A couple may qualify for divorce one year after marriage, instead of three years.

A husband's financial obligations will be directed mainly towards his children, and the wife will be expected, after a period, to provide for herself.

Those who get divorced abroad will be able to claim financial help through the English courts.

The changes, outlined in Law Commission reports, are understood to have been widely accepted, in spite of objections from certain religious groups.

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Britain 'does not need Trident strike power'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

There are said to be at least 10 possible alternative options to the Trident submarine-launched missile system for the modernization of the British independent nuclear deterrent and the capital cost of some of them could be £6,000m less than the cost of Trident.

These are among the conclusions of a study prepared for the Aberdeen University Centre for Defence Studies, published today.

It bases its financial comparisons on the assumption that at present values Trident is likely to cost about £29,000m, compared with the £7,500m which is the Ministry of Defence's official estimate.

It is intended that four Polaris-carrying submarines will be replaced by four much larger submarines carrying the D5 Trident missile in the 1990s.

But the report says that Britain does not need the strike power of a Trident force.

It notes that a single Polaris submarine threatens only 16 targets, whereas a Trident submarine could threaten as many as 224.

Part of the increase in strike power arises from the fact that on Trident the multiple warheads - multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles - from a single missile can all be guided on to separate targets.

Alternatives to Trident by David Hobbs (Centre for Defence Studies, Edward Wright Building, Dumbarton Street, Aberdeen; £5).

Old communion service may be revived

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England is likely to reintroduce one of its old services to meet the need of those who dislike the modern language of the new Alternative Service Book.

It is understood that this is to be recommended to the General Synod by the House of Bishops, who have been sensitive to the continuing agitation of bodies like the Prayer Book Society and the unabated criticism of the language of new services.

Non adaptation of the Book of Common Prayer communion service, known as Series I, may be revived. The Series I Service lapsed with the introduction of the Alternative Service Book in 1980. It was argued that those who wanted a traditional form could use the full Book of Common Prayer service of 1662. But that service is thought to have an excessively "heavy" atmosphere which has discouraged its use.

The Prayer Book Society has repeatedly complained that the old service was being driven out by the new and the decision of the House of Bishops to revive Series I is intended as a counter to that.

It would be the first time that a form of service which had ceased to be authorized was brought back into use in the Church of England.

Sale room £44,000 for dining table

By Geraldine Norman, Sale room Correspondent

A Victorian mahogany dining table sold for \$64,000, or £44,000 (estimate \$30,000 to \$40,000) to a New York private collector in a Christie's sale on Saturday. The price is a huge one as the period is still mainly treated by furniture collectors with a disdainful smile.

The table, however, has two special qualities: First it is the most comfortable type of dining table, circular with a single pedestal support and no legs to bump knees against. The pedestal support is well-proportioned and nicely carved. Secondly, it is an unusual and documented type. Robert Jupe took out a patent for an expanding circular dining table in 1835 and this is a Jupe-type table. It has two tiers of concentric extra leaves and was sold with a contemporary mahogany cabinet made to hold them when not in use.

Both Christie's and Sotheby's held sales of English furniture in New York on Saturday and while there were some very high prices, the bidding was selective. The Christie's sale made £934,413 with 23 per cent unsold. Sotheby's made £670,209 with 15 per cent unsold.

In both sales, eighteenth century furniture in "Gothic" taste attracted unlooked-for interest. While full-blown imitation of the Gothic style was a

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The SDP and the Liberals have reached agreement on the wording of a reasoned amendment which will enable them to vote together at the end of today's House of Commons debate on cruise missiles. This may be regarded as smart politics over an example of what Dr Owen has been accustomed to describe as "fudge and waffle" - or possibly both.

It is certainly a political advantage that Alliance MPs are not now expected to be marching into different lobbies on such a critical issue. If that had happened, as seemed likely only a few days ago, the Alliance would have been exposed to ridicule. As had as Labour, it would have been said. But the firm of words on which the SDP and Liberal MPs have settled represents nothing more than a superficial tactical manoeuvre. The amendment is designed not to express agreement but to conceal disagreement. The Alliance has managed to come together only by ducking the issue.

Should cruise missiles be deployed in this country or not? The amendment does not say. It declares that Nato should continue to negotiate at Geneva "without weakening its bargaining position"; a new initiative from the United States in the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces talks; and urges the British Government to negotiate for a dual key system for any cruise missiles based in this country.

Serious difference on defence

But none of those propositions provides any reason for the Alliance failing to take a position on the basic question of deployment. Dr Owen told the SDP conference at Salford last month that if the party "made a decision to reject cruise missiles purely and simply on the issue of the dual key... the electorate would see it as a cynical way of treating one of the most crucial defence decisions that has faced this country for many years."

So that cannot be a reason for delaying a decision, unless Dr Owen is prepared to eat his words with quite remarkable speed.

Nor is there any development that could take place at Geneva that would render deployment unnecessary, unless there was to be a zero option agreement. Any other agreement would permit the siting of some cruise missiles in Britain. The Alliance does not, reasonably enough, have the slightest confidence in the possibility of a zero option agreement in the near future. So what justification can there be for delaying a decision?

Apart from narrow political calculation, that is. For some time it has been evident that Dr Owen has been preparing the SDP to accept cruise missiles, while Mr Steel has been preparing the Liberals to reject them.

It reflects a wider and more serious difference between the two parties on defence. They are agreed in opposing Trident. But the approach of the Social Democrats is generally more robust, while within the Liberal Party there is an undertow of unilateralist sentiment.

Even on Trident there may be disagreements ahead, because in his speech to the Liberals at Harrogate Dr Owen implied that by the time the next government takes office in about 1987 so much money may already have been spent on the programme that it might make no sense to cancel it.

Public facade of unity

So long as serious differences on defence remain between the Social Democrats and the Liberals, it will be impossible for either leader to take a forthright line without being accused of splitting the Alliance. It therefore becomes necessary to preserve a public facade of unity by devising forms of words which do not express what either side really thinks.

The thinness of this facade is likely to become apparent soon enough, as different Alliance MPs begin to interpret their amendment today in different ways. No doubt it will be said that this sort of manoeuvre is necessary in politics. But one of the reasons why the founders of the SDP left the Labour Party was that they were not prepared to accept that it was necessary on major issues.

During the general election campaign the Alliance was properly scathing about Labour's confusion on defence, presenting it as a party that could not safely be entrusted with the nation's security. Alliance leaders will not be able to make much play with this issue in future unless they can agree on more than the need to delay exposing their own differences.

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Newman's code of ethics to cement contract between police and public

A code of professional ethics is being drawn up for London's 26,700 police officers, Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said yesterday. It would be a "key to success" in making the contract between police and public work effectively.

Sir Kenneth said: "It would be an invaluable asset in helping to maintain public confidence in the police service. Confidence is an essential element in the success of any partnership."

His comments came after the leaking of a confidential report, commissioned by the Metropolitan Police and completed in August, which said there was cause for serious concern about many police practices and that about half of the people in London had serious doubts about police conduct.

Sir Kenneth told the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women that if crime was to be reduced and the quality of life improved, police and citizens must both improve their performance.

"In so far as the Metropolitan Police is concerned, we must honour the conditions on which the public consents to be

policed. A breach of these conditions can usually be dealt with in court or by the provisions of the discipline code.

"Police officers must regard the conditions as a code of professional ethics. Securing citizens' rights has to be a central objective of the police operation, as important as the objectives of detecting crime."

Sir Kenneth said that the most important of those conditions were that a police officer was fair and impartial to all people, whatever social position, race or creed.

Had a compassionate respect for the dignity of the individual and behaved to all with courtesy, self-control, human understanding and tolerance.

Never used more force than necessary to accomplish a legitimate purpose.

Never subjected anyone to any form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Upheld the law he or she was employed to administer and observed the legal process.

Acted with honesty and integrity towards fellow citizens and service colleagues.

Sought at all times to exercise discretion with skill and sensitivity.

Sir Kenneth said the public shared with the police the responsibility for promoting an orderly and peaceful society. That required active cooperation with the police, including upholding and respecting their authority when it was properly exercised; care of property, and promotion of crime prevention schemes.

"There is evidence that police officers sometimes fail to honour the conditions upon which public consent depends. It strikes at the core of police effectiveness."

"On the public side there are also grounds for dissatisfaction."

There was a growing "negative attitude" towards policing, with some people determined to erode the partnership between the public and the police "as a means of creating tension and instability within society", Sir Kenneth said.

"The evidence suggests that if you are young and black and live in the inner city, the ties in the law and order contract with police officers are likely to be at their most tenuous."

33 children evicted from council home

By Alan Hamilton

Doors were splintered from their hinges, windows were shattered, and a room that had once been an adolescent boy's only home was stripped bare, leaving only a tattered horror comic, an odd forlorn sock and the smashed remains of a transistor radio, strewn upon the floor.

Until last week 33 children lived at The Hollies, a London Borough of Southwark children's home set in leafy parkland in Sidcup, Kent. This large Victorian institution that once housed more than 200 was due to be closed within five years, but it shut suddenly last Thursday night in a scene that more properly belonged in a Dickensian workhouse.

Like the children to whom it was home, The Hollies had become a casualty of the long-running dispute over pay and hours between the social workers who staff the homes and their local authority employers.

While social workers have been refusing to stay on duty at night and at weekends, Southwark has been sending senior non-union staff and outside social workers to supervise the children between 6.30 in the evening and 7.15 the next morning. They were given a cooked meal before the regular staff left and were given pocket money to go out for the evening.

But last Wednesday the children revolted, and barricaded their doors against the night staff who had come to keep an eye on them. The next night the children were sitting watching television when a number of social workers arrived and ordered them all out. They were being taken, they said, to other homes. There was no time to grab even a toothbrush.

Scuffles ensued and the police arrived. Twenty of the children were taken briefly to Bexleyheath police station; thirteen melted into the night, mostly to be found soon afterwards; and five stayed away until yesterday.

The police searched the house, breaking down the locked doors of individual bedrooms, and later on Thursday night, council workers arrived to strip the place of its furniture and the children's belongings, supposedly to be returned to them in their new homes.

The house presented a dismal picture yesterday, as though ransacked by burglars.



Home no more: A girl who had lived at The Hollies in despair in a stripped bedroom yesterday. (Photograph John Voos).

Pupils set up computer link across the world

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

A new computer unit opens today at a school in Berkshire, which will enable pupils to get into the computer memory banks of the world.

The children at Garth Hill School, in Bracknell, are making history by opening the first direct international communication link from Britain via Prestel.

During today's opening ceremony, a pupil will make the first connection to the Video Text Communication Link called Postal International between London and Stockholm. This marks the beginning of an international service available to all Prestel users.

Mr Peter Edwards, the county's education director, is to open the centre, which was built by staff and pupils and financed with money raised by parents, teachers and pupils. The centre cost £12,000 and is equipped with 16 BBC micro-computer stations also to be connected to Prestel and to a link giving it access to the international databanks.

Mr Stanley Goodchild, the head, said the centre would be used not only for O and A level computer science, but right across the curriculum. "It will be available for computer assisted learning to help children of all abilities, especially those who have learning difficulties and the high flyers."

Longmans is publishing eight new programs for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum and the BBC microcomputer today, together with parents' notes. The programs are for children aged four to eight and are designed for use by the child alone or with initial parent help.

The programs cover the learning of letters, practice in multiplication tables, number skills and problem-solving.

Price war threatens late holiday bargains

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Although many package tour companies are offering more foreign holidays for next summer, a dearth of bargain offers late in the booking season is being forecast.

This is because the growing price war is squeezing the tour operators' profit margins and will force them to cut back earlier than usual on the holidays on offer according to travel industry leaders.

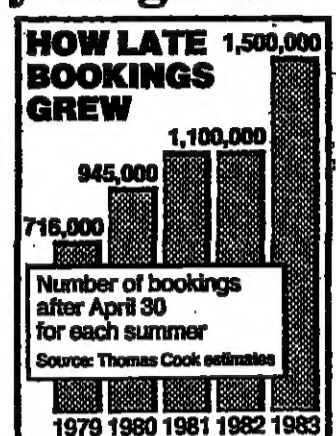
This consolidation of holidays, as it is described within the trade, took its toll on cut-price offers this summer.

Mr Roger Corkhill, managing director of Global Holidays, one of the top six tour operators and a subsidiary of the GUS group, said: "Consolidation on the pattern of this summer is inevitable next year. This is despite the fact that most of us expect the market to grow further again, probably by at least 5 per cent."

Mr Barrett is urging the travel trade to tackle the problem in several possible ways. One suggestion is that holiday companies should offer a "book early" range running alongside an alternative late booking system. Although the late booking offers would be comparatively restricted they could offer a better standard of choice than occurs after large-scale consolidations.

Another option would be a form of voluntary control over the number of holidays on offer to achieve a better balance against expected demand.

Research by Thomas Cook, the travel agency chain which is also a tour operator, shows how a pattern of late bookings has



Attack on farmers' ploughing

By Rupert Morris

Large expanses of Britain's countryside are being ploughed up in defiance of conservation provisions in the Wildlife and Countryside Act, it was claimed yesterday.

Conservationists argue that the generous compensation arrangements for farmers contained in the 1981 Act are creating new pressures on the countryside.

Mr Robin Grove-White, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and Miss Fiona Reynolds, secretary of the Council for National Parks, yesterday gave three examples of how farmers get round the act.

In the past 12 months the North York Moors National Park Authority has objected to seven farm schemes and offered management agreements for environmental reasons. In five of the cases farmers have carried out their operations regardless.

Suffolk grasslands are threatened by rapid conversion to cereal farming which has seen grassland in the northern protected area decline by 33 per cent since 1970, and in the Middle Waveney and Deben valleys by 20 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. To protect these three areas would cost £750,000.

In the third example given, companies are being launched to convert marginal lands to arable production, taking advantage of agricultural subsidies and tax relief offered by the Business Enterprise Scheme.

TV-am is 'on target to raise £4.5m'

By Kenneth Gosling

The refunding of TV-am, the breakfast television station which now has a head audience of more than a million, is proceeding on target to raise £4.5m in the next fortnight, the station said yesterday.

That was in spite of what the station called a deliberate attempt on Friday by a prospective shareholder trying to jump the queue to invest to undermine confidence in its future.

Revenues next month is expected to exceed £1m, the first time running costs will have been met by income. October advertising was fully sold, bringing in £85,000.

Existing shareholders have

invested an extra £1.7m as part of the new package and Mr Timothy Ashton, chief executive of TV-am, said that meant there was time to ensure an appropriate balance of new shareholders.

Roland Rat, the puppet that lifted TV-am's ratings during the summer, was the object of confusion over a hotel bill for more than £1,000.

Roland and the nine-man Rat on the Road crew ran up the bill at a Yorkshire hotel and the account was sent to Roland's creator, David Claxton.

He sent it to the station's finance department which returned it.

The station said yesterday that there was some internal confusion but the bill would be paid by the company.

The 15 independent television companies will have to pay an additional £20m between them to cover the costs of Channel 4 next year, it was confirmed yesterday.

Their subscriptions have to include repayments on the loan taken out by the Independent Broadcasting Authority in 1982 to launch Channel 4, about £50m out of a total cost of £89m. This year's Channel 4 bill was £123m, plus £5m interest. The capital and interest has to be repaid over five years.



Tiny treasures: A grizzly bear (left) and seal with pup, carved in the Netsuke style by Michael Webb.

Carving a reputation for brilliance

By Geraldine Norman

Webb was a director of Sotheby's and head of the furniture department until 1976 when he retired to Yorkshire to carve full time. He had given Sotheby's his expert knowledge, plus the advantage of an artist's eye that knew instinctively both the aesthetic and commercial value of a piece.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he became an auctioneer for Japanese art sales, at the time a small and unconsidered byway of Sotheby's business.

Webb began to collect, particularly metalwork, and porcelain. He bought for small sums a collection which would

now be considered "highly important" and he became fascinated with the Japanese culture.

He painted and drew in his spare time and later turned to Netsuke carving.

He now carves about twenty pieces a year, mainly on commission, and sells them for between £200-£1,000. The work in the Ekenazy exhibition has been lent by collectors in the United States, the Far East and Europe. Seven years of quiet carving in his Yorkshire retreat has made him one of the world leaders in his chosen art form.

Webb's reputation for brilliance in carving has grown steadily since he retired to his Yorkshire home. His work is highly sought after by collectors and is often sold at high prices. He has been featured in several exhibitions, including one at the Ekenazy exhibition in London.

"And to think I might still be bashing away at Mr Moody's document revisions."



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Children near nuclear plant have high incidence of leukaemia

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Allegations that the incidence of leukaemia among children in villages within a few miles of the Sellafield (formerly Windscale) nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Cumbria is several times higher than the national average are contained in a television documentary to be shown tomorrow.

The most alarming disclosure is that the number of cases among children under 10 at Sellafield, a village a mile south of Sellafield, is ten times the national average.

When a larger area was surveyed to include the parishes of Wetherthwaite and Bootle, the incidence of leukaemia was found to be five times higher than the average.

Plutonium and other radioactive substances which are present only in the waste from nuclear fuel have been found in household dust in the fishing village of Ravensgill, about six miles down the coast from Sellafield.

Levels of radioactive materials on farmland in the area are also said to be above the natural levels of background radiation.

This evidence is to be presented in *Windscale - the Nuclear*

Laundry a Yorkshire Television documentary, includes the results of analyses by Dr Philip Day of Manchester University and Professor Edward Radford of Pittsburgh University.

Professor Radford has been a member for more than 15 years of committees on radiation safety advising the American Government and international organizations and is one of the most controversial specialists in this field.

He believes that the level of radioactive waste discharges which most experts recommend as safe for the public or for workers in nuclear plants is too high.

There is no disagreement about the fact that radiation causes cancer. The argument has two main elements. The first is over the amount of different types of radioactive waste material which should be tolerated in the environment from the handling of nuclear fuel.

The radioactive substances created in nuclear fuel in power stations, such as plutonium, americium, caesium, ruthenium, iodine, and strontium, emit different types of radiation. Some of these elements also

accumulate in specific tissues such as the lung, thyroid, bone marrow, liver and kidney and form a concentrated source of radiation there. The degree of risk associated with particular radioactive elements therefore varies.

The problem is compounded because the alpha-radiation from a substance like plutonium makes it more likely to initiate a cancer than a different type of radiation from another substance.

Plutonium is regarded as the most poisonous of the substances because less than a millionth of a gram of plutonium is likely to be the source of a cancer of the lung.

The second part of the argument is whether there is some threshold below which no cancer effect is produced by radiation. That idea would presuppose that some repair mechanism is available to the body.

However, there is no evidence for that supposition and therefore most safety policies assume the possibility of a "linear effect" between radiation dosage and the risk of cancer.

Jews renew appeal on grant aid for school

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Mr Robert Dunn, the new minister in charge of schools, today meets a lobby which has been battling for the past 15 years to win government support for a voluntary aided Orthodox Jewish school to be established in Stamford Hill, north London.

A member of the deputation will be Rabbi Abraham Pinter, assistant principal of Yesodey Hatorah School and a Labour member of Hackney Council, who says he does not see why the Jewish community should not receive similar aid for its schools as that given to Roman Catholic grant aided schools.

As it is, the practising orthodox Jewish community has set up its own private schools, such as the Yesodey Hatorah, which is run on little money and lacks proper buildings formerly a Roman Catholic home for unmarried mothers, which is overcrowded and has broken windows covered in corrugated iron.

Yet the Orthodox community, including the Chaiside sects from Eastern Europe and Russia, chooses to send its burgeoning younger generation to such a school because it is run on strict lines. The sexes are segregated, with the girls receiving a different education from the boys, and half of every day is devoted to Hebrew studies.

An application for the girls' primary section of the school to receive voluntary aided status was turned down last year by Sir Keith Joseph, then Secretary of State for Education.



Rabbi Abraham Pinter with pupils in the girls' primary section of the Yesodey Hatorah school (Photograph: John Voos).

on the grounds that Hackney already had too many places in primary schools and that an extra school would cost £300,000 a year.

His other reason was that the school did not conform to education regulations and he was not convinced it would be able to fit voluntary aided status were granted. He did, however, encourage the school to put in another application and said that he recognized there was "a substantial and genuine demand for single sex voluntary-aided Jewish school places in the London borough of Hackney."

Yesodey Hatorah has accordingly made a new application. It is being opposed by the Inner London Education Authority, which opposed the previous application on the ground that it has too many places, but also because the ILEA inspectors do not approve the schemes of work and teaching methods used. It adds that insufficient teaching staff are recognized as qualified by the Department of Education and Science.

The authority has philosophical and political objections about which it has not been so open. A private paper to the ILEA Labour group from Mr Bryn Davies, the former

ILEA leader, said that the principles of some religions (as interpreted by some sects) are difficult to reconcile with socialist aspirations. "For example, Orthodox Jews insist on the segregation of the sexes from three years old and this continues in the work place. Inevitably women are bound to have unequal opportunities as men have traditionally occupied positions of wealth and power."

Mrs Ruth Gee, deputy leader of the ILEA and Hackney's representative on the authority, said that to grant voluntary-aided status to one Jewish school might open the flood-

gates because there are thought to be 30 Orthodox schools in Stamford Hill. She emphasized that her attitude was not one of discrimination, as has been alleged by Rabbi Pinter. More than 3,000 Jewish children go to such schools in north London and pay very little in fees. If their parents have enough money they pay £12.50 a week at the Yesodey Hatorah, but if they do not they can pay as little as £3 for six children.

"We do not want to be an independent school," Rabbi Pinter says. "On the fees we charge it is impossible to maintain the school properly."

Fresh calls for Kincora inquiry

From A Staff Reporter, Belfast

Politicians in Northern Ireland yesterday renewed their demands for a judicial inquiry into the Kincora boys' home scandal, in spite of a report clearing the Royal Ulster Constabulary of a cover-up.

Members of the province's assembly said the report by Sir George Terry, former Chief Constable of Sussex, who opposed further investigation into the affair, left important questions unanswered.

There was also criticism of the RUC for publishing the report's findings on Saturday morning in what was seen as a clear attempt to minimize publicity.

The politicians claim that Sir George exceeded his brief by criticising the social services and making recommendations for an inquiry within that service. Some suspect that, by making such wide-ranging comments he would enable the Government to declare that there was little purpose for a full inquiry.

One politician said: "The whole thing down to the timing of its release, which appears to have been done so that by the time people could comment in detail the story will be old news makes me very suspicious of government intentions."

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will decide on his return from the United States whether to set up an inquiry.

He will have to balance the politician's demands against Sir George's conclusion "that there is no need for effort and time to be expended on further inquiries into this rather distasteful matter."

Sir George says in his report that further investigations would provide an "undesirable platform" for those with self-interested motives or political or religious interests.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has also decided that there is no basis for further

criminal proceedings. But Mr Prior's view is that there should be no lasting public disquiet, and he will be judging reaction across the province.

The Northern Ireland Office is aware that further unsubstantiated allegations might be made at a public inquiry, and that such an inquiry could cost more than £1m.

Sir George's report into the RUC's handling of the Kincora scandal clears the force of a cover-up.

The inquiry arose from newspaper reports which led to three members of the staff at the Kincora boys' home in east Belfast being jailed for attacks on children in care.

Sir George criticizes the police for failing to act on information received in the mid-1970s.

He also condemns the social services for "a high degree of naivety, incompetence and, in some instances, an avoidance of responsibility."

Assaults inquiry at the Maze

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Police are investigating allegations that prison officers stripped and beat a republican inmate at the Maze jail after the escape of 38 Provisional IRA prisoners last month.

The prison authorities are also looking into numerous other complaints of ill-treatment and assault of H-Block inmates in the days after escape. But the Northern Ireland Office "denied that police were investigating claims of ill-treatment of 90 H-Block prisoners."

The investigations were started by the Maze governor, Mr Ernest Whittington, after Father Denis Faul complained

that some prison officers had virtually mutilated after the break-out.

Desmond Armstrong, a republican prisoner from west Belfast, told Father Faul at Mass that he had been in a room in the food van hijacked by the escaping prisoners. He claimed that he was identified to a group of prison officers as innocent in the break-out, but a second group of officers refused to accept that. He said that he and three recaptured prisoners were dragged along the floor, stripped and beaten.

He claimed that he lost two teeth when he was hit across the mouth with a baton

The Northern Ireland Office denied the allegations, at the time saying Armstrong had been injured during the escape and had had dental treatment to remove two of his teeth.

The prison authorities are conducting internal inquiries into claims that republican prisoners were attacked by prison officers and bitten by guard dogs in revenge for the break-out. The Northern Ireland Office has consistently denied this.

A report into the break-out by Sir James Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons in Great Britain, is expected to be completed next month.

Jobcentres 'advertising illegal pay'

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Jobs at illegally-low wages are being advertised by government Jobcentres, the Low Pay Unit says in a report today. Some are as much as £40 short, the unit finds in a study entitled *Bob-a-Jobcentres*.

The research was conducted at seven of the largest employment offices in the West Midlands but the authors, Mr Steven Whynard and Raghib Akbar, say the situation in some other regions is likely to be significantly worse.

They conclude: "We have the absurd position of the Department of Employment employing wages inspectors to enforce legal minimum rates of pay while another part of the government employment service is advertising jobs at less than the statutory minimum."

"More starkly this means that government Jobcentres are unwittingly assisting employers in a criminal act."

The survey concentrated on jobs in clothing, catering, shops, hairdressing and laundries, all occupations covered by wages council rulings.

It was found that one in 20 wage council jobs posted below the legal rate and some were "far short" of it. One West Bromwich clothing firm was advertising for an experienced machinist at £50 for 59 hours work, £42.60 below the minimum.

The report, which has been submitted to the Manpower Services Commission and to Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, calls for urgent action.

Sales of NHS land hit by legal ruling

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Problems over government policy to sell off surplus land are disclosed in a letter to an MP from Mr John Patten, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health.

The letter, which must have been written with the knowledge of Mr Patten's chief, Mr Norman Fowler, reflects dismay at the Government's policy of selling off surplus land by a ruling by its law officers.

The law officers ruled in March that planning permission cannot be obtained for Crown land before sale. This means that land may realize less than its market value.

The ruling was made by the Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, the then Solicitor General, Sir Ian Percival, QC, and the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, QC.

Now Mr Patten has written to Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, who disclosed the issue, saying: "There is no doubt that the law officers' opinion represents a serious setback to the land disposal programmes of health Authorities, and could cost the National Health Service dearly."

The Department of Health is being frustrated in its attempt to obtain early legislation to change the ruling. Mr Patten writes: "We have been pressing Patrick Jenkin (Secretary of State for the Environment) to initiate legislation to amend the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, so that it would be legal for the Crown to apply for statutory planning permission."

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French Socialists close ranks and defer to left-wing pressure

From Diana Geddes, Bourges-en-Bresse

It was with tangible relief that a previously divided Socialist Party closed up its seventh biennial conference in Bourges-en-Bresse near Lyons, yesterday, under a single motion setting out the policies that will take the party almost up to the all-important parliamentary elections in 1986.

After overnight deliberations behind closed doors lasting nearly 11 hours, representatives of the three main factions emerged yesterday morning grey-faced and bleary-eyed, but happy. They announced they had managed to overcome their differences to produce a single composition.

The new 10,000-word motion, put to the congress and approved unanimously by the 1,400 delegates, differed little from the motion put forward originally by the "Courant 1", the majority centrist faction dominated by the Mitterrandists, but supported by the previously separate groups led by M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, and M. Michel Rocard, the Agriculture Minister.

There was nevertheless, a marked shift of emphasis in certain paragraphs in deference to demands by the left-wing. Ceres facilitated by M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the former Industrial Minister. As a result, the party's already highly critical attitude towards the United States was hardened. The desire of achieving domestic economic growth despite the recent crisis, was reinforced.

A suggestion in the original motion that despite its independent stance world affairs, France was "indifferent, ideologically, politically and strate-

gically from the US and the USSR" was deleted.

The motion continued: "France's voice in world affairs is different from that of the US. Its active contribution is a decisive factor in the evolution of events. There are disagreements with the US concerning its ultra-protectionist trade policies, its selfish monetary policies, its adventurist policies in Central America and in the Caribbean, as illustrated by the military invasion of Grenada, its ambiguous policy in West Africa, its errors in the strategic arms talks, and its arms race."

Pressure by the Ceres also led to a weakening of the party's firm stand on the deployment of missiles in Europe. The wording of the original motion was changed from: "We cannot accept that the USSR keep what it has deployed, and at the same time the non-deployment of American missiles..." to: "We cannot accept that the USSR keep the essential elements of what it has deployed..."

The party's success in achieving its own unification will enable it to approach with greater confidence the forthcoming talks with its partners in government, the Communists, on the issue of the increasingly critical stance adopted by the Communists.

Apparently on the orders of President Mitterrand, M. Lionel Jospin, the party's first secretary, used the conference to issue the strongest warning yet to the Communists to stop their sniping at the Government. At the same time, he emphasized the critical importance of preserving the "Union of the Left" with the Communist party.

Reagan attempts to outflank Kremlin

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

With barely a month to go before the first of the new American medium-range missiles are deployed in Britain and West Germany, President Reagan has urged the Soviet Union to "finally negotiate serious" in Geneva.

The President in his weekly radio broadcast was responding to the offer of President Andropov made last week to reduce the number of Soviet medium-range missiles in the European theatre to 1,400, lower figure than the Soviet Union had previously proposed.

President Reagan said the Soviet Union had not formally presented its offer.

However, the State Department has already poured cold water on the latest Soviet initiative, saying it was a new attempt by Moscow to split the US from its NATO allies.

It is clear that the US and the Soviet Union are engaged in an intense propaganda contest in the remaining weeks before deployment of the Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles begins.

The American believe the Andropov offer is timed to overshadow the decision in Ottawa last week to dismantle 1,400 Soviet nuclear weapons in East over the next five years.

It also coincides with the United States' invasion of Grenada. This has been out to be a propaganda effort for the Soviet Union, while the United States has been out to fight.

Wafd wins right to fight

The Administrative Court rejected the claim that the party had disbanded voluntarily in 1978.

The Wafd, originally a popular liberal and nationalist movement in the 1920s, was dissolved after the 1952 revolution when Nasser created a one-party state.

First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st November 1983 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 10 1/2%.



Crisis of identity: Argentine police controlling Saturday's rush for the identification cards needed to vote in the elections.

High turn-out as the voting starts in Argentina

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Voting in Argentina's general election started smoothly yesterday with signs of an extremely high turnout. The elections are the first held in 10 years of military rule.

Earlier, the Government lifted the state of siege which

had been in force since November, 1974. In a televised speech, General Reynaldo Bignone, the outgoing President, called for calm and national reconciliation, and announced that the hand-over of power to the new civilian authorities could be brought forward.

Although General Bignone did not name a date, it is

believed that the civilian administration could be sworn in around mid-December, rather than at the end of January.

The Peronists, one of the two front-runners in the presidential race, closed their campaign with a mass rally on Friday night attended by more than a million supporters in the centre of Buenos Aires. Two days earlier

the radicals closed their campaign in Rosario, the country's third largest city, with a rally attended by more than 300,000 people.

Summing up the general satisfaction, the mass circulation newspaper, *Clarín*, carried a banner headline saying: "We've arrived."

"Who else but Lloyd's Life Guarantees life insurance to everyone 50 to 80..."

Seniorplan. The first choice of thousands.

Lloyd's Life pioneered Seniorplan after extensive research. It was created out of a genuine understanding of the needs and requirements of older people.

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And now, there's an *extra* reason why you should join them — the opportunity to use £12 on your TV licence when you enrol, compliments of Lloyd's Life. The following features have made Seniorplan the No.1 life insurance choice for older people...

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Lloyd's Life were first to *guarantee* life insurance protection for people aged 50-80 with no embarrassing health questions and no medical examination.

Low premiums are guaranteed never to increase.

You know *exactly* what your Seniorplan cover will cost, now and for the rest of your life. Even if prices continue to rise, your gross premiums will remain at the same reasonable cost. And you pay only the *net* amount shown, because your Seniorplan premiums qualify for immediate tax relief, whether or not you pay income tax.

Benefits can never be reduced or cancelled.

Seniorplan gives you the security of *lifetime* protection that cannot be reduced in value or taken away.

Your benefits are based on your age at enrolment. And, once established, your benefits *never* go down — which is why it pays to apply now. The younger you are when you enrol, the more you get for your money.

And, just as important, your cover can never be cancelled by Lloyd's Life as long as you pay your premiums in the agreed manner.

How can Lloyd's Life make these guarantees?

You might wonder how Lloyd's Life can accept people on such generous terms and still be able to provide high-level cover.

We found a way to do both — by adding a special feature called the "Benefit Builder Period".

In the event of death from natural causes during this two-year period, your beneficiary would receive all the premiums you have paid plus 10% per annum interest. Should death occur as a result of an accident during this period, your beneficiary would receive the full benefit amount.

After the "Benefit Builder Period" is over, full benefits are paid on death from any cause.

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52	466	932	1,398	1,904	2,462	2,918
53	420	840	1,260	1,760	2,218	2,774
54	374	748	1,120	1,616	2,074	2,630
55	328	656	980	1,472	1,930	2,386
56	282	564	840	1,328	1,786	2,142
57	236	472	700	1,184	1,642	1,998
58	190	380	560	1,040	1,498	1,754
59	144	288	420	896	1,354	1,610
60	130	260	390	820	1,240	1,490
61	116	232	344	736	1,126	1,376
62	102	204	308	652	1,012	1,262
63	88	176	262	568	898	1,148
64	74	148	216	484	784	1,034
65	60	120	170	390	670	920
66	46	92	124	296	556	806
67	32	64	88	202	442	698
68	18	36	42	108	258	410
69	4	8	16	24	54	82

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'Humbled' Kaunda is sworn in for fifth presidential term

From Stephen Taylor, Lusaka

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia was sworn in for a fifth term at a ceremony in front of the colonial High Court building here yesterday, having received 93 per cent of votes cast in Thursday's election.

The only candidate for the Presidency, he was driven from State House along avenues lined by flame trees to hear the poll result announced by Chief Justice Annet Silongwe. Fewer than 500 people attended the ceremony, but the vote represented an emphatic renewal of President Kaunda's five-year mandate, and he declared himself "overwhelmed and humbled".

The percentage poll was estimated at 63 per cent, compared with the 67 per cent of registered voters who cast ballots at the last election in 1978, when "KK", as he is popularly known, received about 81 per cent of the votes. None of the 125 constituencies recorded a majority of "No" votes compared with seven in 1978.

The election was remarkable, in that for the first time since Zambia's independence from Britain 19 years ago there was no alternative to "KK", even in the background. A former senior presidential adviser remarked with startling candour at the weekend: "Before we had to take care of the opposition. This time it just faded away."

The results for the parliamentary elections were not yet

available last night but a number of MPs and ministers were thought likely to lose their seats in a voter reaction to increasing economic austerity.

In an interview with *The Times* on Saturday, President Kaunda said that Unip, the sole legal political organization, would be examining electoral reform and he did not rule out the possibility of independent candidates being allowed to stand for Parliament. Although that might endanger party candidates, it would be welcomed by urban voters who see the Unip party structure, particularly the Central Committee.

President Kaunda said "Fortunately, Zambians speak their minds, and if the people want in opt for a new system they will say so. At present they are supporting the system. But you cannot get away from the people. They will see through you."

On the relative openness of Zambian society, he said "It is a great safety valve we have, to speak freely on any issue. He declined to be drawn on the future of seven people, including Mr Valentine Musakanya, former Governor of the Bank of Zambia, under sentence of death for treason. Their appeal is under consideration, but there is strong speculation in diplomatic circles that, even if it is turned down, President Kaunda will exercise his right to grant clemency."

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Invasion aftermath Island relieved but not jubilant

Administrators assemble

Bemused Grenadians hope Americans will not overstay welcome

From Trevor Fishlock, Frequent, Grenada

Surinam orders Cubans out

The islanders are bemused. Machine-gun fire, with a sound like a tiger's growl, pours from an aircraft circling the jungle-covered hills, helicopters clatter, and jeeps, full of soldiers with green-painted faces, bounce through lanes ablaze with bouganvillea.

Wide-eyed children suck their thumbs and their parents sit on their porches in a puzzled, chins-in-hand way. People are relieved, not jubilant. They are pleased the Americans are here, but they hope they will be gone in six months. There is a desperate longing for political stability.

"It's as if the garbage man has come and taken the rubbish away," Mr Benjamin John, a haulage contractor, aged 29, said. "We're glad the Americans came. This island has been like a prison for five years. Now we have a chance to get out of the mess," he added.

People like Mr John have a tolerant view of Mr Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister murdered in the coup. "He was a good man in his way. He was a Marxist, but not extreme and he was coming more moderate. That's why they killed him. He is a big loss to Grenada. If he were alive, he would easily win an election."

There is profound hatred for Mr Bernard Coard and General Hudson Austin, who brought down Mr Bishop. "Everyone in this island would like to shred them into little pieces," Mr Martin Lewis, an ice-cream seller, said, as his neighbours nodded enthusiastic agreement.

Mr Vincent Samuel, a customs officer, said: "We're an easy-going people. We would never make good Communists, because we like doing what we want. Our army was indoctrinated by Cubans and the Marxists tried to indoctrinate the people. We had political classes every Friday in my department, but I used to skip them."

Grenadians I talked to, seem to have been affronted rather than angered by the presence of Cubans and the activities of local Marxists. They are just rude pigs, those people," one man said. "You know what they tried to tell us? They tried to say there was no God. But if there's no God, who breathes life into us? Were they trying to tell us it was old Castro?"

These discussions took place in the village of Frequent, a few miles from the Cuban-built airstrip at Point Salines, in the

to us. You can see it in their eyes." The Americans showed us around a wooden hut on the compound which they described as a propaganda centre. They seemed excited by it but the contents were not impressive. There are handwritten posters extolling the revolution, photographs of Cuban troops in training, copies of Soviet Weekly, pictures of President Fidel Castro, a paperback called *The Civil War in Russia*, and a pamphlet written by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko.

Not far from here, on a hillside overlooking the airstrip they had been building, 600 captured Cubans sit and wait behind barbed wire, guarded by soldiers. They have a good view of what is now the busiest airstrip in the Caribbean, watching transport aircraft bring in stores, artillery and reinforcements. Troops are dug in around the airstrip in great strength.

The Cuban prisoners live in four large wooden buildings and in tents. They sit hunched in the shade of resignation. They told us they were all construction workers but that their military training had made them familiar with weapons. They said they had decided themselves that they would fight if the Americans landed. In the event, they fought until they ran out of ammunition.

The American troops look well pleased with themselves. They are gratified that the local people are pleased to see them. "We had a good old fight with the enemy, just like the old days," a soldier said, describing an action. "It was a good training mission," an officer said.

Vice-Admiral Joseph Metcalf III, who is in charge of the operation, is the epitome of the happy warrior. At a news conference at the airstrip he wore a baseball cap and talked with finger-jabbing gusto. He seemed exultant.

He said he had seen the recently arrested Mr Bernard Coard. "He looked pretty fat to me," the admiral said. "I did not speak to him. I scowled at him."

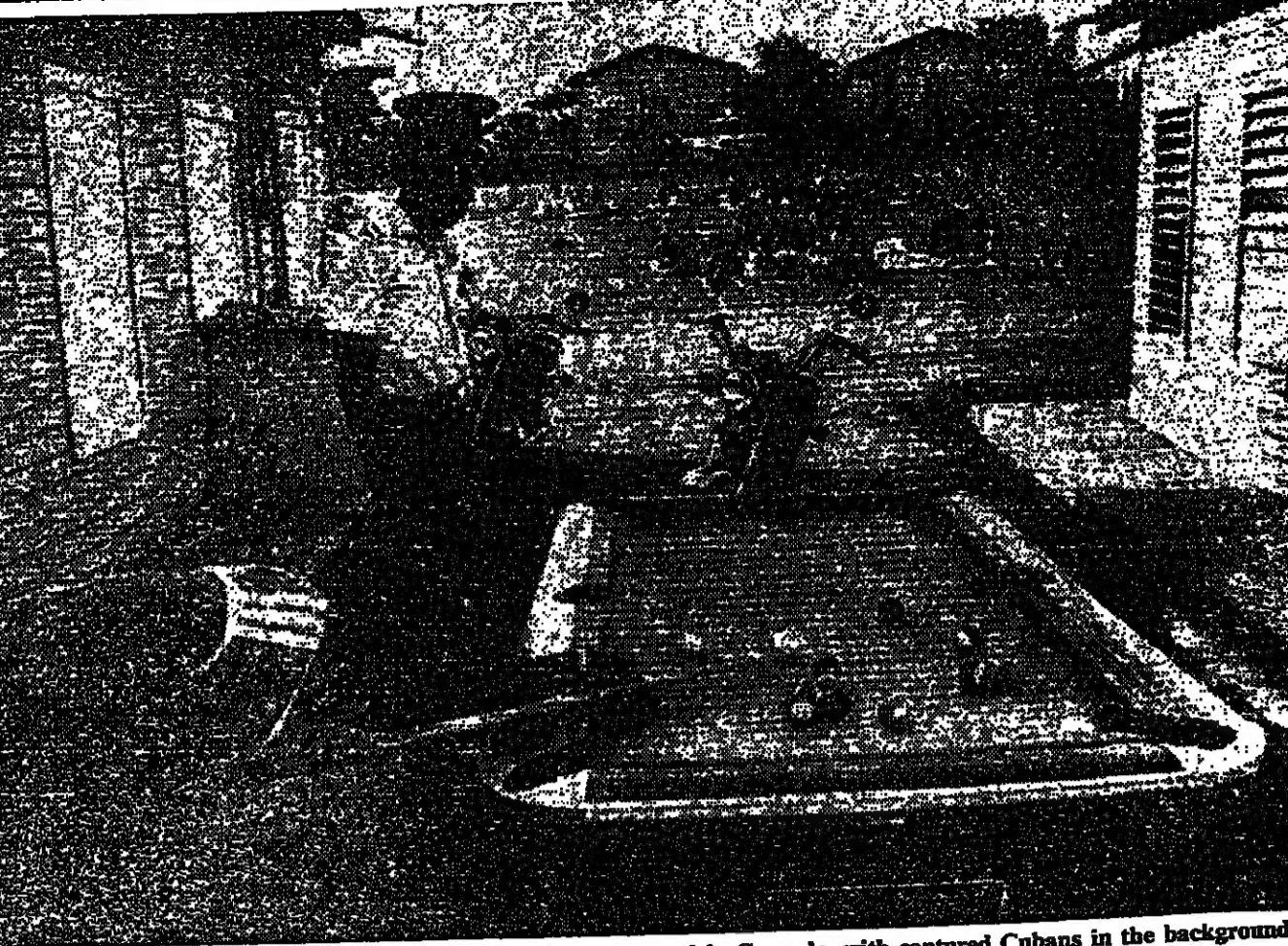
He concluded the conference by saying, with a broad grin: "Thank you, gentlemen. Go get 'em."

It is plain that the admiral feels it is quite a satisfactory little war.

There are hundreds of boxes of ammunition, mortar rounds, a variety of rifles, including Russian weapons, pistols and machine guns. There are also spares and food. One warehouse is full of boxes of overalls, hats, shirts and socks. Some of these garments are scattered on the floor along with dozens of pencils inscribed *Hecho en Cuba*. Among all this, curiously enough, lies a single cricket boot.

"There's enough here to outfit seven battalions," an army captain said. The Americans see this place as evidence that the Cubans were up to no good in Grenada, and that it is part of the justification for their invasion.

"We're here to stop the Cubans oppressing the Grenadians," a sergeant said. "It's not an excuse, it's a damned good reason. The people are grateful



War games: Guards playing pool in Grenada, with captured Cubans in the background, and (below) a wave from a Beirut bomb victim arriving in the US.

Technocrat team will assist Scoon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A team of highly trained technocrats is being assembled by the Commonwealth to help Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, pull his country out of its present crisis.

That was the top priority facing Mr Sonny Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who summoned his principal aides to a contingency planning meeting at his Marlborough House headquarters in London last night.

Sir Paul is said to favour a non-party technocratic administration of the island in advance of free elections, in the interests of national unity.

The first of about 12 experienced administrators, who are likely to include Grenadians living abroad and representation from Whitehall, should arrive at St George's the capital, by the end of this week.

All will be seconded by their Governments and the enterprise will be financed by the Commonwealth fund for Technical Cooperation, according to Marlborough House sources.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, now a central figure in the diplomatic coming and going which has followed last Tuesday's invasion of Grenada, cancelled a planned trip to Malaysia and spent all weekend on the telephone instead, negotiating with the heads of Commonwealth countries.

Sir Paul Scoon's priorities were spelt out in a conversation with the Secretary-General on Saturday afternoon - 24 hours after Mr Ramphal had discussed the options with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

Last night Sir Geoffrey left for Rome and a bilateral meeting today on the forthcoming EEC Summit in Athens. Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Defence, underlined British reluctance to become involved in a guerrilla war in Grenada when questioned on the *World This Week* on BBC Radio 4 yesterday.

"How long it will take the Americans to really establish complete security in the island remains to be seen. The degree of security that can be established before the Americans leave is going to be a significant factor for us in judging at what point a Commonwealth force should come in and the extent of British participation."

The Foreign Office said last night that 55 British people had now left Grenada. The last plane, flown out by the Americans, had included all but one of the 18 Plessey Group engineers who had been supervising the construction of Grenada's controversial new airport at Point Salines.

Mr Tony Devereux rejected the American claim that the airport was being built for military use by Cuba.



Castro accuses Pentagon of Yankee fantasy and panic

From Richard Williams, Havana

The Pentagon, the communiqué stated, had given a total of 638 Cubans captured, including the wounded.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has been anxious to take reporters to meet the relatives of the Cubans on Grenada whose individual fates are unknown. Señora Nellie Sánchez is the wife of Señor José Joaquín Giron Caballero, an ophthalmologist, aged 45, who left Calixto García Hospital in Havana 18 months ago to assist with the organization of a new ward in the hospital at St George's, Grenada.

"The only weapons my husband had," she said, "were his scalp, scissors and other medical instruments."

Señor Jesús Vizcaino, aged

44, returned a month ago from Grenada, where he had been working with the Grenadian Government's Department of Statistics. "They requested our help in the development of their projects, especially in the sphere of industrial production," he said at his office in Havana. "We helped on the basis of their needs, according to their requirements."

During his six months on the island he had noticed no opposition to the regime of Mr Maurice Bishop.

Had the Grenadians sought to copy the example of Cuba's revolutionary socialism? "No two countries are exactly alike. We respond to the right of every country to find its own solution."

US troops were in Honduras for joint exercises, but "they are also, psychologically, in any event, helping to restore an equilibrium that has been distorted by the military build-up in Nicaragua."

What really concerns the Hondurans is the lack of military balance. Mr Negroponte said. There has been no official reaction here to events in Grenada, but comment in the press has been favourable and Señor Edgardo Paz Barric, the Foreign Minister, has emphasized that the invasion was at the request of eastern Caribbean countries.

Mr Negroponte said it was too soon to say how events in Grenada would affect central America or the Contadora peace process. But he did not feel it would undermine confidence in Washington's desire to resolve regional problems by negotiation.

US envoy dampens hopes of Nicaragua exiles

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

The US action in Grenada has been welcomed in Honduras, according to Mr John Negroponte, the American Ambassador.

Nicaraguan exile groups here, which are fighting the Sandinist regime, have also drawn encouragement from Mr Reagan's action in the Caribbean. Señor Manuel Calero, the leader of the FDN, the largest group of the so-called "contras", said it has set a precedent for US anti-communist intervention in the region.

Mr Negroponte denied this, saying the Grenada invasion had been undertaken on its own merits and was not designed to put further pressure on Nicaragua to change the course of its revolution. He said the key to ending tensions in Central America was for Nicaragua to find a way of living with its neighbours.

Maronites of some of their power. But Shaikh Pierre, the 78-year-old leader of the Phalange party and President Amin Gemayel's father, was adamant. "Getting the foreigners out of our land is the first job we have," he said.

"The Lebanese Government controls only 25 per cent of Lebanon, if that, and what comes first is the election of the foreigners of the Syrians, Palestinians, Iraqis, Libyans and Israelis."

After this had been achieved, there might be "some very slight changes" - a "small improvement" - to the 1943 Covenant which decreed Lebanon should have a Christian Maronite president. Shaikh Pierre's bony had swept through the air dismissively.

He founded the Phalange party in 1936 after discovering

China and India fail to agree on border

Delhi, (Reuters) - India and China have failed to agree on a common approach to settling border differences, but the week-long talks were fruitful and encouraging, an official Indian source said yesterday.

One step forward was that China agreed to a sector-by-sector review of the border with a view to a comprehensive settlement. Each side agreed to reconsider previously unaccepted proposals by the other. They also agreed on the relevance of historical evidence, customs and tradition, and the inadmissibility of using force to acquire territory.

The frontier question is a strain on Sino-Indian relations which led to war in 1962. India accuses China of occupying about 14,000 square miles of its territory.

Search still on for oil ship

Peking (Reuters) - Search operations continued yesterday as ships and aircraft from China, the United States and Vietnam combed the Gulf of Tonkin for survivors of an American drilling ship reported sunk with 79 US and Chinese oilmen on board.

The New China News Agency said that four Chinese ships were rushing to the area where a lifeboat had been spotted with flashing lights by an American reconnaissance plane.

War games

Madrid, (AFP) - US and Spanish armed forces begin their biggest ever joint manoeuvres today involving about 23,000 soldiers, 32 warships and 10 aircraft, the Spanish Defence Ministry announced.

Death leap

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (Reuters) - A young male passenger on a commuter airliner forced to an emergency exit and jumped 3,500 ft to his death.

Hijacker jailed

Jakarta (AFP) - A Muslim militant student convicted of plotting the hijack of a Garuda DC9 to Bangkok in March 1981, has been sentenced to 18 years in jail on charges of subversion.

Cocaine arrests

Miami (AFP) - A Bahamian immigration officer and a Nassau businessman have been arrested for allegedly conspiring to import \$10m worth of South American cocaine into the United States.

Hero's welcome

Perth (AFP) - More than 400,000 people turned out in Perth to give Australia's history-making America's Cup sailing team, headed by businessman Alan Bond, a hero's welcome.

Jackboot fans

Munich - Light-wing extremism hit West German football again at the weekend as 30 neo-Nazis, posing as football fans, were arrested for assault after a match between Bayern-Munich and FC Nurnberg.

Swan avenged

Moscow (Reuters) - A man who wrung a swan's neck in front of visitors to a Soviet zoo has been sentenced to six years in a half-regime corrective labour camp for malicious hooliganism.

Bubbling over

Reims (AFP) - The 1983 grape harvest in Champagne of 869 million gallons is being called the "cru of the century". Officials predict a production of 300 million bottles, surpassing the record 290 million bottles in 1982.

Party leader

Vienne (Reuters) - Chancellor Fred Shevart of Austria has been elected chairman of the Socialist Party, succeeding his predecessor, Bruno Kreisky, who stepped down after heading the party for 17 years.

Search for someone to accept surrender

From Christopher Thomas, Carriacou

An old yellow pick-up laden with 150 rifles and pistols rattled down the narrow street of Carriacou Island's only town and stopped outside the police station on Friday afternoon.

The Grenadian People's revolutionary Army had come to surrender. A policeman stood in the hot sun arguing with two soldiers who had been dispatched with the arms. He had, he insisted, no authority to disarm the Army. The soldiers persisted. They dumped the weapons on the concrete floor of the police station and drove back to the small army camp a few miles away.

All the island's half-dozen policemen were summoned and they decided on a hiding place. The weapons were then taken away to await developments and the sleepy town of Hillsborough settled down again after the unaccustomed excitement.

Carriacou is owned by Grenada, which lies 30 miles to the south, and for the past few weeks the 8,000 islanders have not known who is in charge.

There have been Cuban soldiers in Carriacou, but the islanders say they have rarely seen them. Nobody seems to know if any are still there or if there are heavy arms in the island.

But everybody seems convinced that the Grenadian soldiers, who supposedly number between 20 and 30, would put up no resistance if the Americans or Caribbean Joint forces were to land.

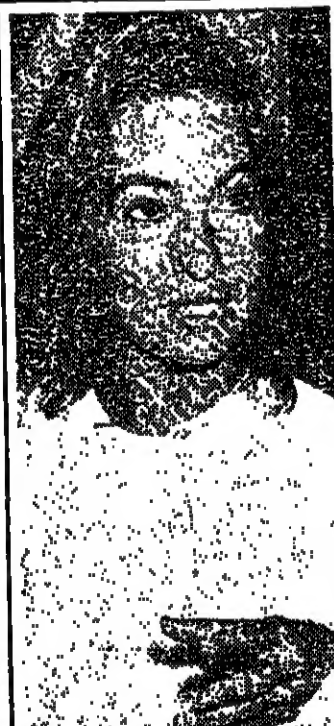
The islanders are jubilant about the US intervention in Grenada. Most expressed support for Mr Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister, and they are hoping that the Americans will soon come ashore.

The US Navy has graphically demonstrated its unhappiness with foreign correspondents who tried to go to Carriacou by fishing boats from the nearby island of Union.

One boatload that tried was harassed by Navy helicopters that dropped smoke bombs in its path. The boat turned back. On Friday *The Times* and some French journalists were buzzed three times by two F14 jets but we were not stopped.

Getting to the main island of Grenada has become a matter of conflict, with touches of humour, between journalists and the US Navy.

A boat occupied by *The Times*, journalists from French national radio, a Swiss reporter and a *Newswatch* photographer got to within five miles of St George's, the capital, after a three-hour journey from Union island before being intercepted.



Battle fatigue: Dr Alison Brooks, aged 25, of London, arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday after being evacuated from Grenada with US medical students. "I haven't slept for nearly eight days. The helicopter evacuation happened suddenly and we had to run for it. All I've got are the clothes I'm wearing. Anti-aircraft missiles were being used and we saw helicopters being shot down," she said.

RETURN OF THE PEOPLE'S SHAH

For the past 2,500 years Iran's Monarchy was the symbol of national unity.

Since the fall of the Imperial Government, the Iranian people have suffered immeasurably and the marvellous achievements of the Pahlavi Dynasty have been destroyed, but hope for the return of the rightful Shah has never died.

October 31st is the 24th birthday and the 4th anniversary of the succession of His Majesty REZA SHAH II, The people's Shah of Iran.

Iranians are greeting the occasion and pray for the speedy restoration of His Majesty to end the present hellish regime.

GOD SAVE IRAN
LONG LIVE REZA SHAH II
SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN

Issued by Iranian Monarchists in Britain



REZA SHAH II

A frail man who takes a tough line

From Robert Fisk, Geneva

Shaikh Pierre Gemayel relaxed in the first-class section of his Middle East Airlines jet from Beirut to Geneva yesterday with a soda water beside him, two bright red carnations in his frail hand and, in his mind, the apparently intractable idea that he was travelling to Switzerland to discuss withdrawal of foreign armies from Lebanon.

Most of the delegates to today's reconciliation conference here - including the Syrian triumvirate of Mr Walid Jumblatt, Mr Sulaiman Franjeh, and Mr Rashid Karami - believe they are going to talk about a new Lebanon and the change in the constitutional structure of the country which will deprive the Christian

Maronites of some of their power.

But Shaikh Pierre, the 78-year-old leader of the Phalange party and President Amin Gemayel's father, was adamant. "Getting the foreigners out of our land is the first job we have," he said.

"The Lebanese Government controls only 25 per cent of Lebanon, if that, and what comes first is the election of the foreigners of the Syrians, Palestinians, Iraqis, Libyans and Israelis."

After this had been achieved, there might be "some very slight changes" - a "small improvement" - to the 1943 Covenant which decreed Lebanon should have a Christian Maronite president. Shaikh Pierre's bony had swept through the air dismissively.

He founded the Phalange party in 1936 after discovering

the Nazi Olympics the "discipline and order" - his words - which he felt Lebanon needed. The problem for the other eight politicians gathering for today's talks, including President Gemayel, is that Shaikh Pierre represents the hard line of the Phalange and apparently believes that the Druze, the Shia Muslims and the pro-Syrian Maronites will be satisfied with a few minor reforms.

The Syrians, who will be observers at the conference, are in no mood to accept this. Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Foreign Minister, was last night reported to be on his way to Geneva.

None of this troubled Shaikh Pierre. The Soviet Union was behind Lebanon's problems, he said, using the Syrians as proxies, he said. Only the United States

prevented Lebanon from falling under Soviet domination. The 1943 Covenant made Lebanon a unique land and it was therefore supported by all the people - or so Shaikh Pierre thought.

President Gemayel's telephone conversation on Friday with President Assad of Syria had not represented a "serious discussion", merely a formal contact after the civil war in the Chouf, an event Shaikh Pierre enthusiastically referred to as the mountain events.

The Syrians take a somewhat different view, as Shaikh Pierre and his advisers will discover when they arrive at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva this morning for the talks which are meant to put Lebanon together again.

Solidarity and Jaruzelski settle in for war of attrition as amnesty ends

With only hours to go before the expiry of an amnesty for opponents of General Jaruzelski, the Polish Government and the hard-core of the Solidarity underground settled in for a war of attrition.

Solidarity called at the weekend for protests throughout November, including demonstrations and poster campaigns. The government, determined to show that it was prepared to make conciliatory gestures until the last minutes of the amnesty, declared that the seven Solidarity leaders and four members of the KOR dissident group awaiting trial would be allowed to emigrate if they wished.

Such offers have been made privately before - the 11 activists have been interned and imprisoned since the declaration of martial law almost two years ago - but they have refused the offer. Their friends and families expect them to do again.

The amnesty, introduced in July, when martial law was lifted, expired at midnight tonight. So far about 560 activists have declared themselves to the police and been allowed to go free, but most were on the fringes of the underground.

Having made its emigration gesture, Solidarity sympathizers expect the authorities to make

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

raids in all big centres of opposition in an attempt to arrest underground leaders who have refused to surrender. Those still free include Mr Zbigniew Bujak, head of the Warsaw underground, and Mr Bogdan Lis, of Gdansk.

It is clear from a clandestine journal circulating in Warsaw that the fugitive Solidarity leadership has no intention of surrendering. "It is our moral and social obligation to fight for the release of political prisoners," said the bulletin, signed by the five members of the underground steering committee.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said in a statement to the official PAP news agency that the emigration offer was open until the beginning of the trial of the KOR dissidents and that it was up to the West to persuade them to leave.

It was unlikely that "the Western overlords of the KOR and the hard-core extremists of Solidarity" would bother to persuade the 11 to leave Poland - they call for freeing people out of humanitarian concern, but they are not guided by this concern at all.

The Government is in a dilemma. After the expiry of the amnesty it must demonstrate that it is firmly in control and that the underground, "the

counter-revolutionaries", can be picked up at will.

But that means beginning yet another round of trials and the production en masse of martyrs for Solidarity. It is thus exploring the option of induced emigration, which is likely to be rejected by most leading Solidarity underground campaigners precisely because it is being made out of embarrassment.

Those who may well consider emigration are the activists who are ill or who have sick relatives, as well as those who fear a long haul of persecution at work when they leave the underground.

Correspondents were approached at the weekend by a number of underground activists involved in printing leaflets in the provinces. Fearful that something unpleasant would happen to them if they surrendered to the police even before the expiry of the amnesty, they were attempting to contact Western embassies to secure the promise of asylum.

The police are anxious to net at least one underground leader before November 10, the third anniversary of the registration of Solidarity as a legal union.

A sign of this came earlier this month when officials - according to dissident sources - beat up the wife of Mr Zbigniew Janas, a fugitive organizer to try to persuade him to surrender.



Deng defiant on future of Hongkong

Peking (AP and AFP) - Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, met Spain's Foreign Minister, Señor Fernando Morán López (above) yesterday and, according to Señor Morán, said that the question of who

will administer Hongkong after China reclaims sovereignty over the colony is not negotiable.

Señor Morán told reporters that Mr Deng had reiterated Peking's stand that the talks with Britain on Hongkong's

future dealt only with assuring the colony's prosperity and stability until 1997.

China intends to regain sovereignty over Hongkong by 1997, when Britain's lease on most of the territory expires.

ANC denies attempt on Botha

Pretoria accused of faking bomb plot

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The banned African National Congress (ANC), in a statement from its headquarters in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, has suggested that the South African claim of an assassination attempt on the Prime Minister last week was stage-managed to whip up sympathy before Wednesday's Whites-only referendum on a new constitution.

The statement was seen as an effective denial by the ANC of involvement in the alleged assassination attempt. South Africa claimed that a young black carrying a bomb, was arrested in Pietermaritzburg last Thursday night on his way to blow up Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, and other members of his Cabinet, who were in the town for a referendum rally. Pretoria says the man was a trained ANC agent.

The ANC has, in fact, never advocated the assassination of senior government figures - although they would be relatively easy targets in a country where, in spite of its deserved reputation in some respects as a police state, security precautions are often surprisingly lax.

Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, the third and most influential Prime Minister of the apartheid era, was the target of two assassination attempts, of which the second, in 1966, was successful. But his assassins on

Zulu students die in campus clash

Johannesburg (Reuter) - Three students have been killed and 10 seriously injured after violent clashes with supporters of a Zulu political group at the black University of Zululand, near Empangeni in northern Natal.

The violence flared as the Inkatha organization held a campus rally, addressed by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, its leader, who has been accused of being a stooge of South Africa in his role as Chief Minister of KwaZulu "homeland".

both occasions were demented whites. The fatal blow was struck by a parliamentary messenger.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, the ANC has urged liberal whites to vote "No" in the referendum on the constitution, which would give limited political rights to mixed-blood Coloureds and Indians. In doing so, the ANC said, the whites would join hands with blacks in the struggle to dismantle minority rule and create a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

Minister collapses: Mr Pik Botha, the Foreign Minister, was yesterday examined for one-and-a-half hours after collapsing at a political rally on Saturday night (Reuter reports).

Migabe threat to pre-white schools

Harare (AP Reuter) - Private schools in Zimbabwe that have more white than black students by next year will be shut down, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said at a weekend.

Some church and private schools were raising fees to keep their doors closed to the average black child, he said at a rally in the eastern Wedar district. The Government is preparing legislation to ban private schools that have a minority of blacks.

The Government paid all teacher's salaries and gave per capita grants to private schools, so there was no reason for schools to charge as much as \$530 a term, he said.

Even schools run by churches were guilty, he could not understand why they used "discriminatory practices" when they were expected to create a non-racial society.

In the capital, hundreds of squatters, beggars and suspected prostitutes were being held in detention yesterday after troops and police mounted a raid which a spokesman described as

a three-pronged cleaning-up exercise.

Shacks at one squatter camp were burnt down on Saturday.

In another development, the Foreign Office in London has agreed to repatriate a British immigrant family that fled from South Africa to Zimbabwe last week.

Mr Sean Bieley, a Manchester carpenter, said he went to South Africa 18 months ago after being offered "sunny skies, work and a beautiful home". None of the promises were fulfilled.

He said his family was left stranded, almost penniless, after living for five months in single rooms. There was "one rip-off after another". Mr Bieley said he would sue the South African Embassy in London.

In a separate incident, the former Prime Minister, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, denied he was plotting with Israel and South Africa against the Zimbabwe Government, which he accused of political harassment and oppression.

Anxiety in Spain over art losses

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A senior Spanish museum curator has admitted that measures to prevent the smuggling of national treasures out of the country are inadequate.

Señora Mameña Bena, deputy director of the Prado museum and a member of the national art exports supervisory committee, told a Madrid art club: "More than half the art exports do not come through us. While we are reviewing art objects of trivial value, paintings like Goya's 'Majestad de Santa Cruz' leave the country by other ways."

The Spanish Ministry of Culture last summer denounced the illegal export of the privately owned early 16th-century portrait of the Spanish aristocrat and started legal proceedings which had so far been fruitless.

Police suspected at the time that a yacht-owning businessman had taken out the painting and had gone to Argentina. They alleged that the painting had found its way to London or Continental art markets.

The chief of the squad also told the art club that the 50-year-old law to protect art treasures was inadequate. Really valuable pieces never even entered the legal art sales circuits. Art works often passed direct from an art dealer to a clandestine dealer or to an art smuggler abroad.

"For every honest art dealer there are five to ten working here in the shadows," the police chief declared.

Evren hits at critics of Turkish poll

Ankara (Reuter) President Kenan Evren has said that next week's general election, criticized at home and abroad as not being free, would bring back democracy and disappoint those who tried to impose their own ideology on Turkey.

He was speaking at a big military parade here on Saturday to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. "Despite pitiless and ill-intentioned accusations, we will establish democracy and a parliamentary system through the general election on November 6, the President said.

Opposition groups at home and abroad have said the elections will not return democracy, as only three parties have been allowed to contest the poll. The democratic process was suspended by a military coup three years ago and next week's voting will take place under continued martial law.

PARIS: Fifteen opponents of the military regime in Turkey have been charged with premeditated assault in Friday's brief takeover of the British Consulate in Paris (AP reports).

The 15, including 11 Turks and four French people, were released on Saturday under judicial supervision.

BAAGDA: Guards beat off two gunmen who attacked the Turkish Embassy in this Lebanese town, and police captured one who they said had confessed to being a member of an underground Armenian group (Reuter reports).

Russia and China agree politely to meet again

Peking (Reuter) - Special envoys from China and the Soviet Union will meet in Moscow next March for a fourth round of talks on normalizing relations, frosty since an ideological split two decades ago.

A communiqué, agreed yesterday by the two sides and issued here by the New China News Agency, said the third round of discussions, held this month, proceeded in a calm and candid atmosphere.

It said the two sides found the consultations useful. The statement was published a few hours after the Soviet negotiating team, led by Mr Leonid

Ilyichov, the Deputy Foreign Minister, flew home after three weeks in Peking.

Mr Ilyichov refused to comment at Peking Airport, but Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, said the meetings had been helpful in the increasing mutual understanding.

Diplomats said the statement made no mention of the obstacles which China has maintained must be removed before normalization is possible.

China is demanding that Moscow remove its large troop and missile concentrations along the Chinese border.

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SPECTRUM

Peter Hennessy talks to the Foreign Office officials with Grenada on their minds

Bright young things of the FO



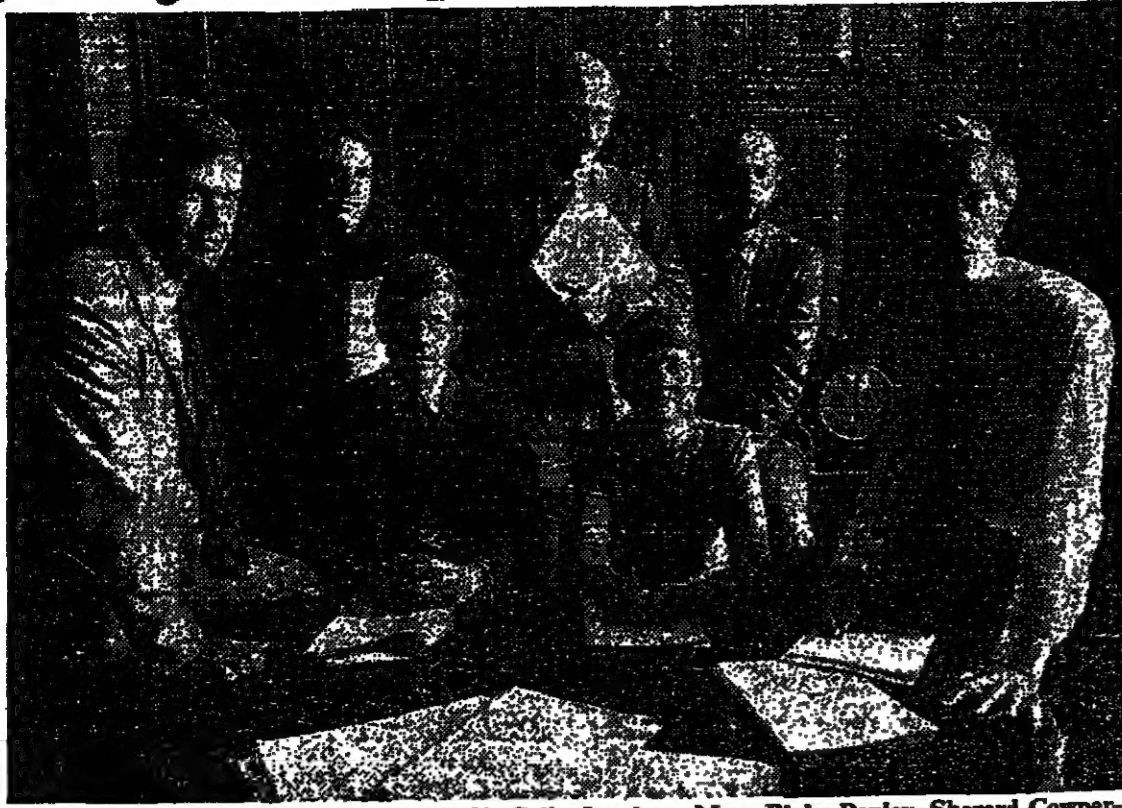
In Mrs Thatcher's Whitehall some things are at a discount, diplomats and think tanks among them. It is mildly surprising, therefore, to find in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a flourishing team of bright young officials licensed to think the unthinkable. What is more, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, seems to relish their output. The Prime Minister uses their material for her speeches and has just appointed one of their former heads, Sir Percy Cradock, to be her personal adviser on foreign affairs in Number 10.

The Cabinet's Think Tank, the Central Policy Review Staff, has lain dead since July. But the FO's planning staff continues to pour out stuff on movements in the price of oil, instability in Central America, East-West economic relations, Poland, Hongkong, Gibraltar, the Falklands, Belize and, since last Wednesday when it became their number one priority, Grenada. Once a month, Sir Anthony Acland, head of the Diplomatic Service, calls a meeting of his deputy secretaries to plunder their product. There is a constant two-way flow of information with the Joint Intelligence Committee, the engine room of Whitehall's secret world, which the planning staff carefully avoid mentioning (the JIC and its works littered the pages of the Franks report on the Falklands in January, but the mist has descended once more; nobody will admit that it exists).

If Mrs Thatcher, the slaughterer of think tanks, did cross Downing Street to pay the planning staff a visit in their ground floor billet, next to Sir Anthony Acland's office, with its grand view of St James's Park, she would probably like what she saw. Its small staff do not fit the fashionable but unfair stereotype of the FO as a citadel of polished smoothies forever talking down the national interest and endlessly seeking one group of foreigners or another to sell out to.

For a start they are run by a woman as sharp as any in public life. Miss Pauline Neville-Jones, who has a knack of being in the right capital at the right time - Salisbury, Rhodesia when UDI was declared, Washington as Watergate engulfed the Nixon presidency - has her own view why the planning staff have survived.

"Why have we been spared? For a number of reasons. We don't attempt to be inter-departmental. We are not involved in the inter-departmental power game. We have been established for a very long time [since 1964]. People do not let us see the papers. They can't stop us seeing the telegrams. But they could stop us seeing the policy submissions. Nothing could kill a



The thinkers of the unthinkable (from left): Colin Jeannings, Mary Blake-Panley, Sherard Cowper-Coles, David Lyscom, Pauline Neville-Jones, Andrew Colquhoun, David Manning (absent, Desmond Cecil) Photograph: Brian Harris

planning staff sooner than to be cut off from information. The FO does understand the value of licensed devil's advocates."

They use a number of ploys to make an impact on potential customers. They try to invent snappy titles for their papers. Miss Neville-Jones did not want to give away scoops by mentioning recent examples. But *The End of the Rainbow*, an early 1970s study of what happens when North Sea oil runs out, is a cherished gem from the past. Beneath the headline the idea is to keep it short and relevant. It helps if you have prepared the market in advance by engaging the customers in debate. Think the unthinkable by all means but do not stray into the realms of the politically daft like suggesting half-a-dozen ways of ceding the sovereignty of the Falklands to Argentina. This week their energies will be concentrated on possible practical solutions for Grenada in the post military intervention phase.

The planning staff have proved adaptable. They usually have an outsider on their strength - though they are all insiders at the moment. Mr Colin Jeannings is on secondment from the

Ministry of Defence. Mr David Lyscom is an economist and statistician. Mr Andrew Colquhoun is an Arabist with a PhD in plant physiology from Glasgow University. The ages of the team range from 28 (Mr Sherard Cowper-Coles) to 43 (Miss Neville-Jones). They respond to external circumstances and the wishes of their consumers, while all the time trying to generate initiatives themselves which may be sparked off by an odd paragraph in a routine telegram or even by something they have read in the newspapers.

The invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the invasion of the Falklands in 1982 saw them transformed temporarily into a crisis clearing centre - by Sir Michael Palliser, then head of the Diplomatic Service who had run the planning staff in its first two years, when the Russians struck and by Sir Anthony Acland when Port Stanley fell to the Argentines. Sir Michael always had a soft spot for them. "Access to the Permanent Secretary," said one insider, "means the planning staff can play games with the big divisions. Palliser was prepared occasionally to

allow games to be played with it, to let an argument run."

In fact, part of the planning staff's job is to inject heterodoxy into the FO, raiding the minds of MPs, academics, journalists and the collective wisdom of bodies like Chatham House and the International Institute of Strategic Studies. Sir Julian Bullard, FO's political director, and an important patron of the planning staff, is particularly keen on this aspect which is described by Miss Neville-Jones as "spreading the seed corn around the office".

A lot of corn has been pushed the way of ministers in the past two years. The Falklands resignations brought in one new bunch, the general election a second (Sir Geoffrey Howe, says Miss Neville-Jones, is "a great consumer of paper and has a very retentive memory - you put something up and it comes back with little marks all over it"). As a result of ministers marching up their learning curves, about 75 per cent of her workload is generated by others. She would like it nearer 50-50. She has to beware, too, lest the short-term crowds out the long-term.

The planning staff are meant to fulfil the impossible task of spotting crises or developments over the horizon. Colleagues can be rather unkind when they fail. Of all the options foreseen for post-Solidarity Poland, military rule was thought to be the least likely as it had not happened before in Eastern Europe. Since the oil shocks of the 1970s, forecasting, which flourished in the "salad days" of the Cradock era (1969-71), has been replaced by "scenarios" - for example what happens if the price of oil plummets?

The diplomatic world is full of planners in foreign offices each drawing up scenarios, contingency plans for crises and surveys of trouble spots. In the west, a kind of trade union has grown up among them. But the FO's team is much smaller than its American and French counterparts, consisting of Miss Neville-Jones, six first secretaries, one third secretary, a registry clerk and three conventional secretaries.

One in-house sympathiser says times are hard for the planning staff "because we do not have policy any more, we have rhetoric". Miss Neville-Jones showed her steel at this point: "Simply not true. Styles change, my goodness they change. The way policy is presented these days is different from five or six years ago. It's very important to underline the British interest and defend it. That there is policy I have no doubt. There is more than one Iron Lady in Whitehall."

moreover... Miles Kingston

A taste of their own grenadine

The world political scene changes so fast these days that if you go away for a long weekend you are apt to come back totally out of touch and still talking about Cecil Parkinson. In the last week alone we have seen the Booker Prize given to a man whose name nobody could pronounce, perhaps emboldened by the Nobel Peace Prize going to the equally unpronounceable Lech Walesa. We have seen Tariq Ali ejected from the premises of the Labour Party by their new bogymen Neil Kinnock, which in a fair and just world would be the first step in Tariq Ali's ascent towards a Nobel Peace Prize. And we have seen Grenada come from nowhere to be the world's most famous island.

A week ago most people thought Grenada was a town in Spain or a 19th century railway. I knew better than this. I am one of the few journalists in Fleet Street who have visited the place, and if I have not spoken up before now it was because I have not been asked. Also, the truth be known, my visit took place 20 years ago at a time when last week's troubles were hard to forecast, and it didn't seem worthwhile staying on to cover them. In fact, of the 24 hours I spent there, all I can remember is that milk was oddly labelled back to front - KLM's and that I bought a nutmeg.

"Because you are English, I think you have it for a dollar," said a kindly Grenadian, or perhaps a Nevisian.

"Normally I would charge Americans four or five dollars for one."

"And how much would you charge a native?" I inquired.

"Ten cents," was the reticent, honest answer from the friendly Grenadian, or perhaps Nevisian.

Not the sort of in-depth background on which to write a piece about Grenada. Why it happened. Luckily, I do not feel the need to write a piece about Grenada and its inhabitants, who believe in France are called Creoles. We at *Moreover* feel it is more important to look ahead to the next election. Our approach is *After Grenada*.

Brace yourselves for a shock. My information is that the country due to be invaded is the United States.

The inhabitants of central and southern America, sick and tired of being invaded by the gringos - the United States has landed troops there at least 60 times in the last century - have finally decided to retaliate.

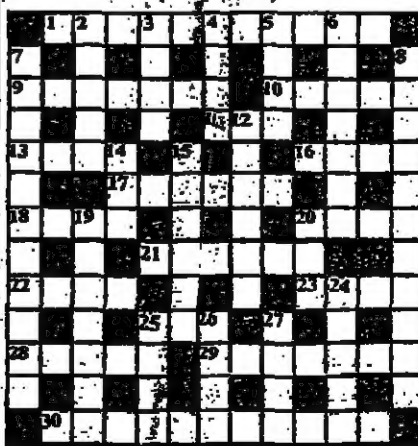
Their mission will be easy. Justify. They will simply claim that the gringos have come to depose an unpopular right-wing regime imposed autocratically on a country where it is impossible to be president unless you are white male and a millionaire.

Cynics will no doubt point out that such an operation will need vast numbers of people, who could easily be spotted and dealt with as they arrived. My point is that these people have already arrived. Over the past few years several million people of Hispanic origin have infiltrated their way into American society, so many that Spanish is the official language in many parts of the States. I am surprised that nobody else has guessed who they really are.

They are fighters, ready for the signal to take up arms and overthrow their hosts, none of whom has any experience of being invaded and would not know what to do. But I am sure the most reasonable native Americans will be reassured by the promise of the invaders that they will go away again as soon as a stable society is set up, and as soon as the United States promises to give up its military operations in Latin America.

Meanwhile, it explains why Russia is not unduly perturbed by the Grenadian or perhaps Nevisian adventure. It explains why Mr Castro took things so calmly. It explains why the Cuban exile economy is so strong in Miami, which is of course to be the new capital of the United States. It explains a great many things, which I do not have space to go into here. My advice to Americans is simply to sit tight, say calm, buy your nutmegs well in advance, and learn Spanish. And remember that you read it here first.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 189)



- ACROSS
- Every device (3,25)
 - Vocal co-ordination (3,4)
 - Rounded hill (5)
 - Typewriting level (3)
 - Crazy (4)
 - Mastic (4)
 - Open areas (6)
 - One over (6)
 - Wide-mouthed (4)
 - Cherry (4)
 - Performed song (4)
 - Poetic through (4)
 - Church (4)
 - Penetration (3)
 - Release from blame (7)
 - Seductive woman (5,6)
- DOWN
- Rock (5)
 - Ornamental calcification (4)
 - Plant (4)
 - Very dark (4)
 - Knack (4,3)
 - Huge bomb (11)
 - 1960s peace movement (6,5)
 - Advice strongly (6)
 - Your (3)
 - Australian bush (6)
 - Blotchy-furred cat (7)
 - Electric shock treatment (11,1,1)
 - Muslim slaughter (2)
 - Ruby carriage (4)
 - Homeless child (4)
 - Unpleasant (4)
 - Looking (4)

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle will appear on Saturday. Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise.

Jan Morris and Simon Winchester explore the buildings that are solid and sometimes extravagant chunks of England in India and linger over verandah sundowners

Bungalow builder

Chez Tapworth (in a ridge - beside a river - in a flowered suburb on the desert's edge - there stands the home of the empire-builder One building above all others stood for the intimate side of imperial life: the bungalow, which was to remain for ever a symbol of the British in India. Before we explore Anglo-Indian domestic architecture any further, let us in an idle way, during a Saturday spin with Frank, briefly inspect this archetypal construction.

It stands, almost certainly surrounded by a walled compound, and whatever its size, it is likely to be built well away from its neighbours. Behind it, there beyond the banyan tree, its kitchen quarters are cluttered beneath a thin haze of wood-smoke; a gravel drive lined with flowerpots runs down to its front gate, which is guarded by fairly pompous gateposts and marked with its owner's name, G D L TAPWORTH. It is a low oblong building, with a porte-cochère of some sort in front of it, probably entwined in creepers, and verandahs under deep eaves all around. Wicker chairs and tables, hammocks, sporting trophies and perhaps a ping-pong table are distributed around these stoeps, and beyond them in the shadows we may just catch a glimpse of chintz and flower-vases, or a glint of cutlery through an open french window. It is not a grand house, not architecturally anything special, but even from our distance on the road outside its character is unmistakable. It represents a culture of distinctive strength, however limited, a people of great

resolution, however dull. As long as the British in India are remembered at all, they will be remembered against the background of the bungalow, taking sundowners on its verandahs, playing badminton on its lawns, or -

Gosh darling, there's Muriel Tapworth now, just coming out of the drawing room. Step on it, for Heaven's sake, before she drags us in for tea...

'Bungle-obs'

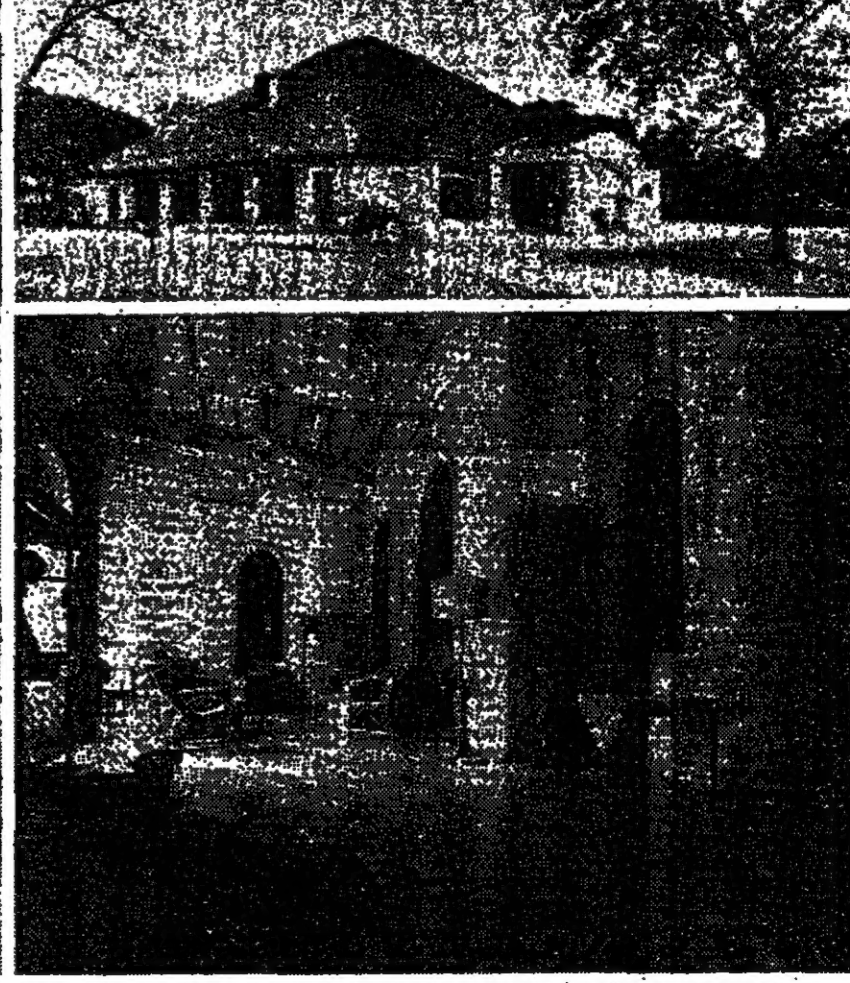
The Anglo-Indian bungalow, was evolved to make the best of things. It was called a bungalow probably because it was adopted from the Bengali patterns, and it was variously spelt bungalla, banga, bungalow, banggolo, bangale and banglo - "For Sale," said the *Bombay Courier* invitingly in 1793, "a Bungalow here and between the two Tombstones on the island of Colaba". In the early years a bungalow generally meant a humble *cacha* house, built of mud-brick or rushes, but later governors and even viceroys were not ashamed to sleep in one, and it was only when the term came to England, at the end of the nineteenth century, that it acquired a faintly pejorative social meaning, as in "bungalow-land" or "bungalowoid developments".

The first Anglo-Indian bungalows were pretty awful. In 1801 some body defined them pithily as "stationary tents run around", and the explorer Richard Burton, in the 1840s, described the bungalow style simply as "a modification of the cow-house". Here and there even now you may still see an example still in use. It is likely to be an oblong structure on one floor, its roof rising unsteadily to a pyramidal centre, its stepped verandah pillars with square mud columns and shaded by low eaves. Its roof was doubtless thatched once, but is now of irregular rough tiles. It is a very primitive house, hardly more than a big hut, and really does look, as a matter of fact, a bit like a cow-house. With lesser regional differences (flat roofs in upper India, for instance, stilted floors in Assam) it was built in its thousands all over British India, generally containing a single square living-room and a bedroom opening off it, with the kitchen quarters in separate shacks.

Most such bungalows were built as bachelor quarters (and they sometimes had a *bikhana* tucked away behind, for the accommodation of native mistresses). When, especially after the advent of the steamship, more British women and children came to India, the form of a bungalow became rather more complex, and sundry changes were rung upon the theme. It



The cool life: (left) the verandah of a Paora bungalow and (right) a marble floor, top, and a verandah of a house in Secunderabad



remained nevertheless a simple structure - to represent a great empire, and often struck visitors as quaint or even faintly comic, when they contrasted its modest arrangements with the flurry of servants that surrounded it, the impressive space of its compound (fifteen times the area of the house was thought a proper proportion for officers' bungalows in 1925), and the almost limitless authority that it frequently housed. Until the end of the Empire it often had no running water, and in elegant city suburbs its toilet arrangements were generally limited to the noxious thunder-box.

It did evolve, though, into more pretentious versions of itself. Sometimes it just grew bigger. The bungalow of the Commissioner at Chittagong in the 1870s, for instance, was a hilltop structure that looked like four or five of the old-style structures put together - still thatched, even then, but surrounded by elaborate succcessions of verandahs and surmounted by a long balustrade ("I have never seen so lovely a place to look at," wrote its inhabitant in 1878, John Beame, "nor one so loathsome to live in..."). Such a house now was likely to have three or four bedrooms, with dressing-rooms attached, a study, a play-room for the children, and a dining-room opening through an arch into the drawing-room, while a covered passage connected the serving pantry with the kitchen quarters at the bottom of the compound.

The bungalow became more stylish, too. The portico was the first sign of higher things: it could serve as a *porte-cochère*, or it could be a mere extension of the verandah, and it did wonders for the dignity of the establishment. We see it in many kinds - flat-roofed, ostentatiously pedimented, curiously gabled, unadorned all over to make

a sort of gazebo. Innumerable pots of chrysanthemums or geraniums often gave it charm. Castellation along the top sometimes gave it grandeur.

Behind the simple shape of the building could be further disguised with parapets, ornamental urns, turrets, wooden spikes, barge-boards. Though bungalows generally remained single-storeyed, clerestories made their rooms still higher and cooler, attics were sometimes added, and there could be terraces above their verandahs - "too high for one storey, too low for two", the journalist George Stevens thought they looked when he arrived in India in 1899. Elaborate furnishings appeared. Regency fan-lights blossomed above heavy wooden doors, mullion windows framed stained glass representations of *Ivanhoe* or *The Idylls of the King*. A wonderful variety of accessories came to clothe the Anglo-Indian bungalow down the generations, and many architectural traditions were drawn upon - only the international style of the twentieth century was altogether ignored, the bungalow being, if essentially rather formal, distinctly not formalist.

By the time it came to the building of New Delhi, in the 1920s, the bungalow had reached the climax of its development. Lutyens, who was responsible for the residential layout of the new capital, was not an admirer of British domestic arrangements in India, which he thought "extraordinarily unintelligent", he liked to scoff about "bungle-obs", and his own designs for the capital's bungalows, which he wanted faced in marble, were rejected as too expensive. Nevertheless as you drive around the streets of New Delhi today the bungalows of the more senior officials, mostly de-

signed in the end by government architects, look most agreeable houses. Their gardens are lush and mature by now. Creepers drift into their wide verandahs. They are of all sizes, being graded according to the importance of their occupants, and in several styles too, but they nearly all give an impression of spacious and airy charm. It is a long way from the stationary tent to these handsome structures, some of them palatial in manner if not in scale, but still the line of descent is direct: the British, having chosen the form of their housing in India in the seventeenth century, never devised a better one during the 300 subsequent years of their residence.

On the verandah

A diversion just for a moment, to consider the verandah. It was in some ways the most important part of the bungalow, fulfilling all sorts of socio-economic functions. Just occasionally it was rather a nuisance - Richard Burton, experiencing one during wet weather in the hills, said that it was "only calculated to render the interior of the domiciles as dim and gloomy as can be conceived". But in two particular ways it was essential to the purpose and significance of the house.

First, it was the one place the imperialists had just for messing around on. Everything was easy-going about the verandah. Its furniture was meant for lounging. Its floor was covered, if covered at all, with the memsahib's least valuable carpets, or with Chinese matting. Its pictures and trophies were beloved rather than precious. Funny old chairs lay round about, bamboo couches, rocking-chairs sometimes, or sofas with wide arms for the accommodation of glasses. Potted plants were everywhere, and here the little dogs of the household

were indulged, lying around on sofas or begging titbits at breakfast time.

And secondly, the verandah was the place where the British woman, in particular, could feel some tentative personal contact with the alien world of India outside. Here hawkers and tradesmen might bring their wares, without actually entering the house proper. The watchman sometimes slept upon the verandah; the tailor was often to be seen cross-legged there in the afternoon. When Mr Tapworth felt obliged to bring one of his native colleagues home for a drink, it was upon the verandah that Muriel generally arranged things; and after dinner, as often as not, when the moon was high, the distant jackals were howling and there was a distant beat of drums from the bazaar, it was upon the verandah that the memsahib, already sketching out her entry for the day's journal, felt herself to be most truly amidst the romance of Old India.

In short, the verandah was a sort of bridge: it linked the rigid and conventional life of the imperialist with the lost liberties of home; it linked the rose-petals of the drawing-room with the dust and dung fires of the land outside; and perhaps too, it tenuously joined the dreams of the Anglo-Indians with the reality of their existences - for on the verandah sometimes, with a drink in one's hand, or an embroidery frame fixed to a wall with and faithful servants just out of sight, empire-building really could seem, just for the moment, all it was cracked up to be.

Tomorrow General Kenan Evren, President of Turkey and military head of state, talks to Peter Nichols

Selling at Sotheby's

Closing dates for forthcoming sales are now included in our weekly calendar, which appears today on page 12

Sotheby's

Hay, you can't do that down here

by Celia Curtis

The self-proclaimed king of Hay-on-Wye, Richard Booth, the 45-year-old eccentric whom the *Guinness Book of Records* recognized as owning the largest second-hand bookshop in the world, may be deposed on Guy Fawkes Day.

Behind the plot is Leon Morelli, a London School of Economics graduate, who heads a vast London-based international mail distribution service. Morelli, reputedly a millionaire, arrived in the sleepy Welsh border town of Hay three years ago when Booth's business was going through a financial crisis. He bought for £100,000 Booth's prime site in the centre of town, the former Plaza cinema, complete with half his stock of books.

King Richard (he announced the independence of Hay six years ago on April Fool's Day) believed that Morelli agreed that the two businesses would be complementary, specializing in different subject areas, but instead apparently went into competition with Booth's 20-year-old business and lured away many of his employees with offers of higher salaries.

Morelli now has his commercially astute eye on Hay Castle, perched on a prime site plumb in the middle of town, with crumbling Norman ramparts looming over a maze of narrow, winding streets. Booth bought the castle in 1964 for about £7,000 and lives in a frugally furnished extension. In 1978 fire destroyed the roof. But renovation continues and Booth promises to open the castle to the public and make it available for local functions.

This summer Morelli, five years Booth's junior, launched a poster campaign challenging the "monarchy" to repossess the castle by November 5 and threatening that if this was not done a vote would be held to decide who should be king.

Last week, on one of his infrequent visits to Hay, Morelli put the finishing touches to his modern version of the Guy Fawkes plot.



Booth: not amused

Today, all 1,800 households in Hay will receive a message asking: "Is Hay-on-Wye one man's self-declared 'kingdom' or another man's fondest dream?" Hay residents are expected to vote by throwing a dart, either at a caricature of the "king" or a portrait of Morelli. The incentive of a free glass of sherry is offered to those who aim at Booth.

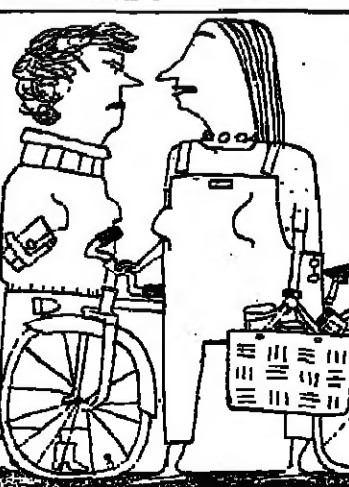
Asked whether his message hid a desire to succeed to the throne and possibly to take over the castle, Morelli replied that he had made a good offer for the castle which Booth had turned down.

In the bar of the Black Lion, Booth admitted he was not amused. He had once considered Morelli to be a friend, but now wanted nothing more to do with him. "If he thinks he can buy the friendship and loyalty of the townspeople, he has made a grave misjudgment," he said.

Undoubtedly, Booth has put Hay on the map since he arrived in 1961, a history graduate from Oxford. He opened a small second-hand bookshop with about 3,000 paperback books and in the course of time acquired some warehouses, the former fire station, an old workhouse, a butcher's shop, the Plaza cinema and the castle, filling them all to overflowing with books. He said that books are a tourist attraction and that he wanted to give book-selling a carnival image. "I think a town where the bookshops are bigger than the supermarkets can be a big attraction."

Booth does not shirk the overstatement. Since that outline of his book-selling philosophy, he has moved on to promoting a rural revival movement, the objects of which he details in a series of pamphlets with such titles as *Bring Back Horses* and *Why Woolworth will destroy Brecon*. He has also declared war on the local branch of a supermarket because he believes that the town's culture is threatened by the food the supermarket imports into the town. He is working on a scheme to promote the reintroduction of local milk, cheese, eggs and butter to rebuild the Hay economy.

BARRY FANTONI



'Neville says you can borrow his copy of the Booker prizewinner when he's finished not reading it'

As MPs debate cruise, John Barry examines Moscow's missile offer

Andropov's disappearing trick



Soviet leadership. While he waited for that, however, Kvtitsky had no negotiating brief his instructions had expired on October 12.

Soviet sources in Western Europe now hint that the policy review in Moscow was a fundamental one. They even ask: "What do we want the SS-20s for, anyway?" In terms of negotiating tactics, Nato sources seem fairly confident that two separate questions were asked. In crude terms, would a significant Soviet concession now buy a deal acceptable to Moscow before Nato's scheduled December deployment deadline? If not, was it worth offering such a concession to buy a postponement of that deadline, in the hope that further political pressure on Western Europe over the coming months might force a change in Nato's position?

In late September, it looked as if the Soviet leadership was about to decide that a significant concession would be worthwhile. Nato sources say that Alexander Bavin, a commentator on *Izvestia* who is very close to Andropov - a drinking-companion of long standing - dropped a hint that Moscow might cut its SS-20s trained on Western Europe to 80 or fewer in exchange for zero Nato deployments.

But as the policy review overran its mid-October deadline, the prospect of this concession faded. By 10

days ago, Nato sources were fairly sure that the most Andropov was going to be able to offer was a concession aimed at winning a postponement of Nato's December deadline. There was even a good idea of what Andropov wanted to offer.

Nato's actual deployments in December will total 41 missiles: one squadron of nine Pershing-2s in West Germany; two squadrons of 16 cruise missiles apiece in Britain and Italy. The offer Andropov was expected to make was that the Soviets would "liquidate" 41 of its SS-20s within range of Western Europe if Nato would postpone these deployments. Even the timing of this offer was predicted: he was to announce it in a speech in Sofia on October 26.

Andropov did not however go to Sofia. He did not make his speech. (His health may explain that). Instead, he has announced Moscow's new offer in an interview in *Pravda*. And it emerges that he has been unable to persuade his colleagues in the Politburo to accept any of the concessions he is said to have wanted.

Culled from the official Tass text of his *Pravda* interview, the deal Andropov has been given authority to offer boils down to the following: Equality of warheads as between the European SS-20s and the British

and French missiles. There is nothing new here, except that Andropov claims this means "the USSR could have in Europe about 140 SS-20 launchers". Previous versions of this offer - it was first publicly broached by Andropov last December - have suggested a total of 162 SS-20s. In effect, Andropov is now offering to reduce that number by 22.

● A freeze on SS-20s in the Soviet Far East. This is new and significant. Its impact is muted, however, by two points. First, the freeze would come into effect only from the "entry into force" of any agreement. In the meantime, the Soviets can make haste to start building as many SS-20 bases in the Far East as they choose and, under previous Soviet freeze rules, those bases would then be entitled to install their complement of SS-20s. (Three new bases are already under construction in the Soviet Far East. Second, though the phrasing of the Tass text is ambiguous, Andropov seems to be saying that the freeze would be conditional upon the US accepting not merely a ban on any missiles of its own in the Far East (a prohibition Washington would accept), but also a ban on modernizing US aircraft based within range of the Soviet Far East.

● A bandwagon of the 300 total systems. Again, Andropov's wording is ambiguous but it could be significant. All previous Soviet offers have said that both missiles and aircraft must be limited (a position Nato now accepts) and that the total of missiles plus aircraft in Europe must be no more than 300 by 1990 (a position Nato does not accept). Moscow now seems to have dropped this. Andropov offers "equal total levels of medium-range delivery aircraft in a mutually acceptable quantitative range, even though substantially differing from the one proposed by us earlier" - which suggests the abandoning of the 300 limit.

So, if these interpretations are correct, it is an interesting and serious package. But it is nothing like as radical as Soviet sources had led Nato to expect. And, of course, the price of any deal remains what it has always been: zero Nato deployments. The most fascinating aspect of the *Pravda* interview is how much of it is taken up with Andropov's explanations of why he is not offering more. It is as if he is sending signals.

Andropov goes out of his way to explain why Moscow has decided not to offer "a unilateral reduction of its missiles in Europe" - in other words, the SS-20s - to induce a postponement of Nato's own deployments. Having argued that the withdrawal of the SS-20s and "more than one dozen" of the SS-5s do constitute unilateral reductions, he goes on to say: "There are no signs at all that the United States would be prepared to forgo such a deployment (of Pershing and cruise missiles) if the Soviet Union continued further to reduce unilaterally its missiles."

In other words, the Soviets have concluded that a postponement would buy them nothing, unless they were also to offer substantive concessions - Nato's right to deploy which they still find themselves unable to agree among themselves. It is the nearest we are likely to get to a public admission that the Soviets' political campaign in Western Europe has failed.

But where does all this leave Yuri Andropov?

Gerald Kaufman

Invade in haste, repent at leisure

Hon Members: "Nonsense".

That was how Hansard recorded jibes by some Conservative MPs during Denis Healey's speech in the emergency debate last week. What irked them was the doom-laden warning delivered by the Shadow foreign secretary: "If there is not an immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Grenada, the fighting may go on for months."

Clearly, those Tories felt that Mr Healey was exaggerating, and that a swift, surgical operation by the Americans would not only subdue resistance in Grenada but also enable an orderly and uncomplicated withdrawal after a decent interval.

Sadly, the experience of many years and many places is on the side of Mr Healey. Military actions, expected at the outset and relatively painless, sometimes drag on for years. Even on the occasions when the actual fighting ends quickly and in success, political commitments may bog down the victors.

The United States first sent "advisers" into Vietnam in April 1956. Before long thousands of American servicemen were enmeshed there, and the numbers went on increasing. The United States presence was brought ignominiously to an end 19 long years after it began, and by then 47,232 American servicemen had lost their lives.

In December 1979 Russian troops moved into Afghanistan, responding - in words, which uncannily anticipated the reasons offered by the White House for going into Grenada - to an "insistent request" from the Afghan government "to give urgent political, moral and economic aid, including military aid". Nearly four years later the Russian forces are still there; between 4,000 and 10,000 of them have been killed.

In June 1982 the Israel Defence Forces (as, in this context ironically, they are officially named) invaded Lebanon in what was expected to be a speedy operation which would create a buffer zone to protect Galilee from terrorist attacks. The mopping-up force turned unwillingly into an army of occupation, and 517 of Israel's servicemen have so far been shot or blown up. It is a campaign which continues to this day, even though Mr Shamir's government is as desperate to end it.

All of these were military campaigns which aroused fierce controversy. However, even operations widely accepted as necessary can have unforeseen and disheartening consequences. When, as a result of a request from the Northern Ireland government (then based upon an elected Parliament in Stormont), British troops went to Londonderry and Belfast in August

1969, they were welcomed by Catholics and Protestants alike as upholders of law and order.

Fourteen years later, law and order in the Six Counties are in no better shape. The British troops are still there, not only reviled but under armed attack from extremists in both communities, and the death toll of members of the Army and Ulster Defence Regiment has reached 504.

Throughout much of the democratic world, the British expedition to retake the Falkland Islands from the Argentine aggressors was regarded as justified. The campaign lasted only a few weeks and ended in total victory, even though 237 British servicemen were killed. However, more than 16 months after the Argentine surrender British troops remain marooned in the Falklands.

No one has the faintest idea when it will be possible to withdraw them, and massive sums are being spent on providing a military infrastructure, even though it is almost universally accepted that Britain's position on the islands is ultimately untenable.

Military actions, entered into unthinkingly or even blindly, can have disastrous consequences for those who initiate them. True, Margaret Thatcher profited politically from the Falklands war. Lyndon Johnson, on the other hand, was destroyed by Vietnam. Menachem Begin left office in despair as Israel's Lebanon entanglement dragged on and on. Anthony Eden was forced out as Prime Minister after the invasion of Egypt in 1956 ended in ignominy.

The lesson of all of these operations is simple and grim. It is easy to decide to embark upon a military action, whether for the best of reasons or from motives, manifestly less noble. Ending the action is a good deal more complicated even when, as in Lebanon but not in Vietnam - the invading army is in a strong position. In cases where the armed operation can be tidily concluded, as in the rare example of the Falklands, the military involvement is not necessarily brought to an end and may be succeeded by an almost insoluble political problem.

Grenada is the latest of a long series of small or weak states which have been turned into a battleground by a powerful nation acting unilaterally, and often in contravention of international law. President Reagan may be full of bravado for the time being. Like others who have launched into military action in a mood of ebullient confidence and self-justification, however, he may find that what began as a short-term solution can turn into a long-term burden.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Gorton.

Anne Sofer

A German lesson for our schools

Anyone who believes there is a connexion between educational standards and economic output will read with gloom a recent comparative study of English and West German schooling standards published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, *Schooling Standards in Britain and Germany* by S. J. Prais and Karin Wagner. (If I were a Scot, I would bridle at that "British"; the Scottish system of education needs to be separately assessed.)

Put baldly we are doing very badly. Among the conclusions are that "about half of all German pupils compared with a quarter of all pupils in Britain, achieve a standard equivalent to a broadly-based O-level", that in mathematics "the German system has raised the level of attainment of its weakest 50 per cent of pupils to about that of the average pupil in England" and that "those in the lower half of the ability-range in England appear to lag by the equivalent of about two years' schooling behind the corresponding section of pupils in Germany".

The West German system is selective - but so also were the schools from which most of the English data came. Nor is it a "trendy versus traditional" argument - though the extremely wide range of the typical English maths syllabus for the lower half of the ability range draws critical comment in passing. It is a question, essentially, of expectations and targets; of attitudes and motivation. The Germans operate a system in which the great majority are expected to achieve a certificated standard - in other words to succeed. We have never in this country accepted that such a thing might be possible. ("Exams that everyone can pass? What nonsense!")

It is instructive to read the Norwood report, submitted to the Ministry of Education in 1943 on suggested changes in the secondary school curriculum and examinations. In describing the "type of pupil" for whom the secondary modern school and later the lower streams of comprehensive schools were intended to cater, the authors of the report seem almost to be describing some Caliban-like imbecile rather than one half of the population of an advanced industrial nation: "He finds little attraction in the past... and fails to relate his knowledge to other branches of activity. Abstractions mean little to him. His horizon is near and, within a limited area, his movement is generally slow." And anybody who thinks we have moved beyond these assumptions, should consider our present examination system which is specifically intended to exclude the "bottom 40 per cent".

This same research document also reports that at the very highest level - the 5 per cent in England who continue with mathematics up to A-level - our performance outstrips West Germany's. And my greatest fear is the thought that the conservative (with both a large and a small "c") academic establishment will scan the report, sigh with relief and say "Well, all those comprehensive school teachers seem to be making a mess of it, but we're still ahead."

What we have somehow got to persuade them is that it is the very preeminence of this top 5 per cent that has directly led to the inadequacy of the other 95. As the report politely puts it: "The exceptionally high quality of the very best... has hindered a proper assessment of what is provided for those below the top."

Why do we have a chronic shortage of good maths teachers? Because the 5 per cent who have studied the subject to A-level, and the very much smaller percentage who have continued with it up to degree level, can mostly find more lucrative employment than school-teaching. Why cannot a larger proportion reach that level? Because the university establishment, in particular its science and maths faculties, have for 20 years fought a successful rearguard action against the introduction of a broader A-level curriculum like the French Baccalaureat or the German Abitur, which would oblige all candidates at this level to continue their study of maths.

The bottom half of the pupil population is failing so abysmally because they are subject to an examination system which is designed to pick out the brightest and set the rest. It is not a system which sets targets or criteria and then tries to get the maximum number of children up to them. O-level is deliberately set so that only a quarter of the whole age group is capable of passing. It is like the exercise that used to be done in formal gymnastic drill: the children line up next to each other and then move an arm's length apart. The fixed point is the most able - all the rest shuffle down.

This is not a plea to remove competition from the education system but to change some basic assumptions. After all, practically all our children can, by the time they are eight or nine, read, write and cope with simple arithmetic - achievements that were thought appropriate only for a small elite a few hundred years ago. It is only our continuing elitist assumptions that are blocking a comparable hoisting of average standards now.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for Camden, St Pancras North.

Robert Fisk on the high stakes in the Lebanon reconciliation talks



Five key figures at Geneva: Amin Gemayel, Camille Chamoun, Suleiman Franjeh, Saeb Salam and Walid Jumblatt

Geneva. Nine men are due to sit down in one of Geneva's best hotels today and try to reconstruct Lebanon. There will be a lot of memories at the table, and ghosts as well.

For the families that ruled Lebanon back in 1943, when the National Covenant was agreed, still largely control the country. Pierre Gemayel, a Christian Maronite who had been inspired by the Nazi rallies in 1936, had a hand in framing the Covenant, the carefully constructed system of power-sharing that gave the Christians the presidency because the 1932 census showed them to be in a narrow majority.

An even younger Camille Chamoun also helped, and so did a Christian from northern Lebanon named Hamid Franjeh. Saeb Salam, an enterprising Sunni Muslim businessman whose father had been a parliamentarian in the Ottoman empire, played a minor role, although the rather haughty Druze leader Kemal Jumblatt stood aside.

The frail and elderly Pierre Gemayel, father of President Amin Gemayel, will be there today. So will Chamoun and Saeb Salam. Hamid Franjeh's brother Suleiman will be there, representing the Christian Maronite and pro-Syrian opposition to the President. Walid Jumblatt, whose father was assassinated six years ago, is in Geneva.

It should be quite a party and it proves two things that with the men who failed Lebanon now trying to rebuild it, the chances of success do not look very high: and that Lebanon, despite its veneer of parliamentary democracy, is governed not by social consensus but family consensus.

Amin Gemayel obviously believes

Who will top the table?

this. A 30-minute chat with Jumblatt, he has said, will clear up the problem.

Amin Gemayel rose through the Phalange but has ostensibly shaken off his Phalangist connections. He knows he has to make concessions, but wants to minimize the influence over the Phalangist militias. He hopes to preserve the present system of government, to keep the presidency in Christian Maronite hands, even though the Maronites are now a minority.

Under the 1943 Covenant, the presidency became Maronite but since 1932 - there had been none since 1932 - since the Christians were not keen to have their minority status confirmed. Yet the system continued in the interests of domestic peace.

Amin Gemayel now thinks he can get away with mere tinkering with this system. But Jumblatt, Franjeh and the former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, all allied to the pro-Syrian National Salvation Front, favour a prime ministerial government, giving real power to the Sunni Muslim premier and reducing the

control of the president, accepting a symbol of Maronite ascendancy with none of the substance. The Deuxieme Bureau security apparatus, now run by former Phalangists, would thus fall within Muslim control.

There will also be proposals at Geneva for a senate, chosen on the basis of sectarian representation, which would have a veto over the lower house. This would provide genuine parliamentary democracy while retaining a generally Muslim veto over legislation.

The Shia Muslims, deprived and poor but, at 1,200,000 the largest religious community, will have Nabih Berri to represent them. The government hopes to satisfy him with a ministry. The Sunni elite have always believed that the Shia can be bought. Mr Berri might prove them wrong.

But the internal struggle is only one of the conflicts which will influence the Geneva discussions. The Israeli-Syrian battle will also figure. Apart perhaps from Chamoun, Israel has few friends at the talks; but the Syrians will not only have their Lebanese friends there - a Syrian government representative will be present.

Just what the Syrians will demand is not known, although they have made no secret of their intention to destroy all Lebanon's links with the Israelis. So the National Salvation

Front is expected to insist on the abrogation of the May 17 unofficial peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon.

The Syrians would rather like Karami to be the next prime minister. As a Syrian writer, he would head a government falling deeply within Damascus's shadow.

The Americans probably accept that Israel's influence has ended as surely as its military adventure has collapsed. According to the Lebanese historian Kemal Salibi the Americans would like a settlement as soon as possible. "But they are worried that they may lose Lebanon. Lebanon is the gateway to the Arab world, which Israel does not want." Washington is thus putting pressure on Gemayel to make concessions.

If the United States applies too little pressure - or if Syria applies too much - the conference will fail in its objectives. But the Americans, meanwhile, have found another conflict in Lebanon. President Reagan sees it as part of the East-West struggle. Inevitably, American credibility is now at stake.

The problem is that Mr Reagan has also placed his country's future legitimacy in Lebanon. While the American naval bombardment of Souk el-Gharb last month saved the Lebanese army - and thus the government's own legality, it also committed Washington to Lebanon's internal battle - and to last week's suicide bombings.

A failure at Geneva will draw the US deeper in Syria's ambitions will remain unsatisfied and it will thus require further prestige from Soviet arms and Soviet assistance. So the US-Soviet struggle is also being fought out at Geneva.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NATO AND THE CARIBBEAN

There has been in Western Europe an indifference to developments in the Caribbean which was eventually bound to create tension within the North Atlantic Alliance. Stability in the Caribbean basin and the Gulf of Mexico is important to Nato for two reasons. The first, and most obvious, is that if the United States is distracted by what it feels to be a threat in a more vulnerable area closer to home than Europe it will have less time and effort to spend contributing to the security of West Europe or the Middle East. Secondly, in strictly logistical terms, the Caribbean basin and the Gulf of Mexico are important because in a European emergency at least 40 per cent of all American supplies and reinforcements for Europe are destined to pass that way. Thus the more that the Soviet Union and Cuba penetrate that area, the less secure a source of strategic supplies it would become.

If the broad purpose of the Alliance is to be sustained and strengthened these American preoccupations with Central American stability have to be more fully understood in Western Europe - Britain included. The result of continued indifference can only be a repetition of the communications failures and embarrassments of the Grenada operation. That, at least in the short term, will have given a new lease of life to the not-so-latent anti-Americanism evident both on the left and on the far right of British and most West European politics.

In the Caribbean Britain's departure and subsequent indifference had created a power vacuum. Whitehall was even agitating to remove the small British force in Belize, in spite of the American misgivings. There was little case law of Anglo-American cooperation and a wholly different emphasis as to the area's strategic importance to each ally.

Developments in Grenada and the fears of governments throughout the Association of East Caribbean States can now be seen to have given Washington more grounds for believing that an intervention would be legitimate than at first appeared. In international law an unsolicited armed intervention in a neighbouring country was clearly wrong, unless the intervening

state could show that its own nationals were at risk. That is how the operation was first presented. Since then Sir Paul Socon, the Governor General, has emerged from hiding. His reserve powers to take the action he has and is taking - including a request for armed assistance - are quite incontestable. His emergence has put the matter in a different light.

As the sole remaining constitutional personality in Grenada he is entitled to use his prerogative to confer legitimacy, even retrospectively, on the whole operation, without reference to anybody including the Queen who, under the Grenadian constitution, had delegated full powers to him except when she is herself in Grenada. Sir Paul has been criticized for not contacting Buckingham Palace before taking any action. On the contrary, he had no need to do so and was well advised to leave Buckingham Palace right out of it.

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday on the television appeared to perpetuate the impression that the British government feels at best dismissive to Sir Paul's role in the crisis, and at worst incredulous. Sir Geoffrey maintained his view that the Americans had not yet adequately justified the intervention. Perhaps he is still the victim of British pique that the Governor General's appeal for assistance was made ultimately to the United States and not to Britain. The logic of the Foreign Office's position, where officials decline to authenticate the approaches made by Sir Paul to the Dominican Prime Minister and others, is that because he did not ask British diplomats for help, he did not ask anybody. That is a sad relic of a colonial attitude to the West Indian states which seems in Whitehall to have outlived any wordier sense of responsibility.

It would be a pity if ignorance, indifference and now irritation were to blight Britain's capacity to contribute wholeheartedly to the urgent work of reconstruction which is now required in the East Caribbean. The difficult task ahead will be for Grenada's colleagues in the Commonwealth to facilitate a political convalescence in such a way that the democratic help both of Grenada and her neighbours serves to substantiate the validity

of the military operation which has just occurred.

In the House of Commons today these events will inevitably be connected with the decision to proceed with the introduction of cruise missiles. It is important, however, to avoid making any such facile connections. The kind of procedures which govern the stationing of American missiles in this country are totally different from those which were lacking in the consultation about the Caribbean. There are no grey areas. There is case law covering the Anglo-American nuclear partnership for more than 30 years, enshrined in memoranda and rearticulated with every changeover in the White House and Downing Street. It is agreed formally that American weapons based in Britain cannot be used without the consent of the British Prime Minister. American aircraft, armed with nuclear weapons, have been operating from British airfields at least since they were evicted from France in the mid 1960's, without Mr Denis Healey, even when he was Secretary of State for Defence, raising any of the objections he raises now.

Ultimately the Alliance will survive on the basis of mutual confidence or it will die. At the heart of that confidence lie the nuclear arrangements, both between the United Kingdom and the United States, and between the United States and her other allies. However rational and clear cut those arrangements are, confidence is ultimately an emotional commitment by each nation and its leaders. That is why the attempts to undermine European confidence in the United States are so often couched in the way most likely to play on people's emotions, through the portrayal of President Reagan as some kind of cowboy, or worse - but hardly less frequently - as the mirror image of President Andropov. It is a false picture and would any way be irrelevant since the nuclear arrangements have already outlived many Presidents and Prime Ministers, some better and some worse than President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher. With patience and optimism on both sides of the Atlantic they should outlive many more.

REPEATABLE MARRIAGE VOWS

For a very long time the Church of England has taken the view that it could not at the same time maintain its doctrine that marriage is or ought to be indissoluble while permitting those who had been divorced to marry again under the church's auspices. Any compromise on the latter, even in the hardest of hard cases, would weaken this public witness. This proposition, however, has been eroded more recently by others no less persuasive: that the church must witness to the mercy as well as the justice of God; that forgiveness and new beginnings are always possible, and those who have fallen from grace should be not condemned but helped and encouraged.

This argument finally persuaded the General Synod in July to agree in principle that there were certain circumstances in which the church should marry divorced persons, and it commissioned the preparation of draft proposals for a scheme to carry this change of policy into effect. Now the synod meeting next week has to decide whether the scheme, as drafted, does what it wishes it to do. Will it identify the worthy cases?

The answer, give or take some rough justice, is probably that it will. A devout church-goer, one who has been abandoned by a spouse without good cause, who has fulfilled such outstanding family obligations as are possible and who humbly accepts a share of responsibility for past failure,

could apply under this system with confidence: one whose attitudes are at the opposite extreme would be wasting the church's time. Some cases will fall in the middle, but the church's pastoral instinct would be to give the benefit of the doubt in favour of the applicant; and the scheme avoids a legalistic approach, and the kind of hair-splitting which is sometimes alleged against the Roman Catholic nullity system.

There are two further tests which these proposals will have to pass, however. Divided as it is both on the wisdom of this step and on the fundamental theology of marriage, the Church of England must look to its own unity. Proposals utterly rejected by a significant minority could do considerable harm. The discipline required by these proposals demands wide agreement if it is to hold. Fortunately they have been drafted very much with the known views of the church's dissenters in mind, to accommodate all but the strictest indissolublists. The Archbishop of Canterbury had justice behind his recent complaint that the draft scheme was being condemned unseen.

The second test is that of natural justice, and here the scheme is defective. Because permission for a second marriage in church is described as a "dispensation", and what is being sought is not a right, the scheme makes no provision for appeal, nor even for a rejected

applicant-couple to be told the terms of the verdict against them. What is missing is not a whole apparatus of formal appeal, but an opportunity for an independent review by some impartial authority, including the opportunity to explain points in the original particulars.

In marriage breakdown many of the facts are ambivalent. The synod would do well to incorporate an umpire into its scheme, for it must take every precaution to diminish the inevitable sense of injustice in those who are refused. Further to that, it should also be possible for permission to be granted for a marriage in church subject to certain conditions, for example that disputes concerning matrimonial property or maintenance should be settled first. The possibility of conditional consent is a surprising omission, as it may lead to a refusal in certain cases where some unsatisfactory detail could well be put right in good time.

Minded as it now is to proceed in this direction, the General Synod has a workable method at hand for doing so, improvable but workable as it stands, and capable of keeping the church together as it proceeds into uncharted waters. Whether it will in the long run undermine the church's witness to the permanence of marriage is a gamble the Synod has already decided to take, and is an objection not to these proposals but to last July's decision.

Another Tory authority, Bromley, also stands to pick up a big bill if the GLC's strategic recreation facilities are passed to the boroughs. It would be interesting to see how the ratepayers of Bromley took to paying for a regional facility like the Crystal Palace sports centre.

Councillor Williams seems confused on the issue of joint boards. He condemns the fire brigade to unrepresentative management by a joint board since it is "not a matter of great public controversy or political interest".

The present administration at County Hall has spent two years reversing cuts (firefighters and appliances) made by the Tories under Horace Cutler. Yet if the new joint board is to meet Government spending targets (which presumably is the object of the entire abolition exercise) it would have to shed 1,600

firefighters and more Londoners would undoubtedly die in fires. No public controversy? No political interest?

But Councillor Williams reserves his most muddled thinking for the question of public transport. Having first extolled what he sees as the past successes of joint boards in this field, he then concedes that "a joint board of 32 boroughs might be too cumbersome" and concludes by arguing for a directly-elected body to run public transport in London.

Funny, that sounds to me reasonably like a description of the GLC...

Yours faithfully,
KEN LIVINGSTONE, Leader
Greater London Council,
The County Hall, SE1.
October 24.

Role of the GLC

From the Leader of the Greater London Council

Sir, Councillor Charles Williams (October 24) suggests that GLC functions like entertainment licensing and recreation services "can be perfectly well managed by the boroughs."

I hope he has consulted his Conservative colleagues on Westminster Council who would take over responsibility for licensing the large number of theatres and cinemas in the West End. In practice, of course, the standards of public safety and environmental protection in London could become extremely patchy and inconsistent, depending on how each individual borough decided to meet Government cuts and "rate-capping" instructions.

Court attacks on third parties

From the Director of the Press Council

Sir, Your leading article, "Innocent third parties" (October 28), was a welcome analysis of one of the two matters arising from the Old Bailey rape trial which have concerned the Press Council in recent years.

When the Contempt Bill was before Parliament the Press Council protested to the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney General, and members of both Houses that the proposed powers to ban publication of names of people referred to or involved in trials were too broad and imprecise to be in the public interest.

The main argument put then was that such powers could be used to protect victims of blackmail (not, as your report of October 26 suggested, the names of victims of rape cases. Identification of victims and the accused in rape trials is restricted by the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act).

The Press Council said the protection of blackmail victims was an aim with which journalists and editors would sympathise. It warned, however, that the wide-ranging powers proposed in the Bill were likely to be used for purposes never contemplated by Parliament.

The other point which had concerned the Press Council was that raised in your leading article: the problem of fairness in reporting an attack made during a trial on a third party who was not before the court. In 1978 the Press Council consulted the Magistrates' Association, the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Law Society about the problem. It then reminded editors that it was for their judgment whether to report a courtroom attack on an absent third party but warned that suppression might be ascribed to fear of favouritism.

Interestingly, in view of Mr Heath's decision, the Press Council announced then that there were occasions where the right course for a third party who believed unfair allegations had been made against him was to consult a lawyer about the possibility of making a correcting statement to the court concerned.

The Press Council said then, and the point is apposite now, that when an attack has been made on a third party it is desirable for the court to discharge its responsibility by indicating publicly how far it has accepted the allegations or taken account of them in reading its verdict or sentence. The responsibility then lies on the press, if it reported the allegations, to report, too, the court's view of them.

There will be much sympathy with your view that an additional legal restriction on reporting may be desirable. However, a danger in that course which needs to be weighed is apparent in the present case. Restricting the press - but not those in the public gallery - from naming someone who has been the subject of an allegation in court provides ideal forcing conditions for the growth of rumours about what was actually said about whom.

Yours etc,
KENNETH MORGAN, Director,
The Press Council,
1 Salisbury Square, EC4.
October 28.

Battle for Hastings

From Councillor D. J. Amies

Sir, Your leader of October 21 suggested that the Government should close the "anomalous" Tonbridge to Hastings railway line despite objections from well-heeled commuters. Prior to the recent general election the Government promised substantial investment in the line to provide an improved service to the now impoverished town of Hastings - the Jarrow of the South-east.

To close this line would be a double tragedy for the eastern half of the area governed by East Sussex County Council. Starved of capital investment by that authority over the last ten years the area now has an adult male unemployment rate of around 20 per cent. Any prosperity that remains is a large extent dependent upon the fast rail service to London, both for commuting and for day trips to Hastings.

The local Conservative MPs have been assured that the line will remain open and have conveyed this view to the electorate. Meanwhile the asbestos-ridden rolling stock is slowly breaking down. Like other promises from this Government,

I am sure, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVID AMIES,
14 Fawcett Meadow,
Robertsbridge,
East Sussex.
October 22.

Pricing gas

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, It is true, as Mr W. G. Jewers implies (October 14), that the Gas Corporation is not burdened with interest payments, but it is burdened with a Government levy of £525m which, if it was interest, would service a debt of some £4bn. Their profit and loss account would be no worse off if the corporation had such a debt, and the consumers would be £4bn better off. So prices could have been less by this amount over the years.

The corporation is pursuing a high profit policy which would not have been allowed by private utility companies before nationalisation.

Cheap gas would put pressure on the generating board to reduce prices and this in turn would put pressure on the coal board to sell coal at world prices.

With the resources of natural gas, oil and coal that we possess, our energy costs should be amongst the cheapest in the world.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MORROW,
41 Bishopsgate, EC2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sites for radioactive waste disposal

From Mr David R. Cope

Sir, The most disturbing aspect of yesterday's announcement (report, October 26) that two sites in England are candidates for the possible disposal of intermediate-level nuclear waste is that the Secretary of State for the Environment appears to have failed completely to learn any lessons from the events following the selection of six sites in Scotland and England for high-level waste disposal tests in 1976-81.

Then, as now, there was an attempt to separate the public examination of the testing of the sites from public examination of the consequences of any subsequent construction at them. Then, as seems likely to occur again, it was argued that evaluation of this first stage in selecting sites should consider only the minor environmental effects, such as drilling noise, likely to arise and not those of any development that might follow.

Eventually, the previous Secretary of State, Tom King, was forced to concede, in ending that research programme in December, 1981, that test-drilling was a matter of national and not only local concern.

No community can be unaware that if it allows testing to go ahead in its area this must increase the chances of its being host to subsequent stages, rather than areas where testing does not occur.

The pressure on the selected areas

has also undoubtedly been increased by the recent rapidly developing international climate against the oceanic disposal of this type of waste.

The only way to handle the understandable concern which local residents and councils feel is for there to be a systematic, national, public examination of the entire policy of radioactive waste management, examining the suitability of all areas of the UK for land disposal and also the merits of oceanic and land sites.

Some machinery for this exists under section 48 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, but even if the formality of this approach is considered unwieldy, a planning inquiry inspector may, as at Sizewell, have a remit which allows the widest examination of the entire policy context of an individual land development.

To date, UK policy on radioactive waste management has been characterized by confusion, delay and political expediency. The piecemeal approach adopted by successive Secretaries of State ensures that suspicion is generated in one part of the country after another. Meanwhile, of course, the wastes continue to accumulate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. COPE,
The University of Nottingham,
University Park,
Nottingham.

Fear of police powers

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, Some welcome concessions have been made by the new Home Secretary in the reintroduced version of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. Opposition to the Bill should not be weakened, however, because most of its objectionable features remain and no evidence has been advanced by the Government that any increased police powers are needed.

In particular, the novel power given to the police to detain an innocent person for up to 96 hours for the purpose of questioning has not been significantly modified. The preservation of the right of silence was expressly recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, and is not directly removed in the Bill, yet the only plausible reason for creating a power to detain a suspect in a police station "for questioning" is to enable pressure to be put on him to waive that right. The right to silence should be protected, not undermined.

The Government's response to criticisms of the detention powers has been to deny that they extend the law at all. In your columns of April 9, 1983, Mr Nicholas Lyell, C.C. MP, then Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Attorney General, claimed that there had been cases under present law in which people

had been detained lawfully for more than four days. Yet when I wrote to him asking for examples of such cases he did not reply.

A Home Office briefing document, prepared for the earlier version of the Bill, describes some cases in which suspects have been detained for more than four days without any complaint, but none in which such detention has been declared lawful.

There are those who have argued that the right to silence should be abolished, but when the eleventh report of the Criminal Law Revision Committee made this proposal in 1972, the public outcry was so great that it was hastily dropped.

The Government evidently seeks to revive the attack on the right to silence in a devious and underhand way. At the same time the privilege against self-incrimination is watered down.

It has always been a central feature of our system of criminal justice and safeguard for the innocent that the prosecution must prove its case without enforced assistance from the accused. Does the public understand that the Government are trying to take this fundamental liberty away?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BINDMAN,
Bindman & Partners,
1 Euston Road,
Kings Cross, NW1.
October 28.

Tenancy by default

From Mr George Curtis

Sir, The anomaly of tenancies by default, to which Mr J. R. Curry drew attention (October 15), was surely wholly unintended by Parliament in the Agricultural Holdings Acts of 1948 and 1976, and should not only be removed, but retrospectively so, to right the most obnoxious injuries that have been committed.

I have a vested interest in tenancies, being a tenant in a small way of business. If tenancies which, as a form of land tenure, have served this country well over a long period of time are not to become extinct, the present rather ineffective CLA/NFU review of the Agricultural Holdings Acts needs to be beefed up, despite the screams that will arise. The new Act should achieve several things:

1. Deal with tenancies by default, retrospectively. Those who have taken land in this manner have behaved in a despicable way and deserve no sympathy at all.
2. Change the system of rent fixing from the present hypothetical, and wholly absurd, "open market" basis to one which reflects both the productive capacity of the holding, its layout and size, and the landlord's investment in fixed

equipment such as buildings, roads, electricity supplies, land drains and such like.

3. Remove the present succession arrangements, which are intellectually on a par with Arthur Scargill's screams that miners taking redundancy payments are selling their sons' jobs. Jobs are, in essence, abstract things, and not held upon either freehold or leasehold deeds.
4. The letting of land is a business. Income receivable from let land should be treated as income from a business. Until it is nobody in their senses is going to let any land for less than the market rate.

5. Pension funds should be barred from farming land held by them on their own account. Their tax-free status as operators distorts the scene for the rest of us who are obliged to pay taxes.

What the Act cannot do, and Parliament cannot provide for, is the extinction of the Labour Party, whose death has been much forecast of late, I suspect prematurely. With its commitment to nationalise all let land there is unlikely to be any rush of landlords until the party has been dead and buried for some ten years at least.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CURTIS,
Dalebrook House,
Dedham,
Colchester,
Essex.

'Soviet threat'

From Mr Alan Lee Williams and Dr Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, We do not believe that Mr Michael Cox (October 18) can be entirely serious when he asserts that Western intelligence estimates of Soviet intentions have not been soundly based. Indeed his further assertion that the Soviet Union is not much of a "threat" either appears to reveal a shallow grasp of contemporary international politics.

This is a pity because his point about the unattractive nature of Soviet socialism is well established and is worth reiterating in the light of the volatile situation in Eastern Europe. However, scepticism about the Soviet military threat should not be trivialized by simply disregarding the facts.

Mr Cox's letter is a classic example of the lack of relationship between Soviet reality and the way it is perceived by Western analysts who prefer to make radical assumptions based on a Western world view rather than on a detailed examination of documentation published in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet analysis of international relations does not allow for prolonged, global deadlock or lasting compromise, but envisages unending conflict, resulting in victors and in the vanquished (who are then dispatched to the "rubbish bin" of history).

More crucially, in this context, the

Soviet term "correlation of forces" does not imply a balance but refers to trends, with one side overtaking or falling behind its adversary. Contemporary Soviet literature places critical emphasis on "ideological struggle".

Moreover, Soviet leaders do not differentiate fundamentally between "military" and "civilian aspects of doctrine" - a concept arguably related more to classical "grand strategy" than to narrow Western definitions of military doctrine.

Mr Cox ignores the fact that the Soviet acceptance of the inevitability of global confrontation as the only way of resolving the conflict between two social systems has been constantly reiterated and more stridently advanced since the death of Stalin in 1953. Thus, since his death, it is no accident that the more optimistic period of "détente" and "peaceful co-existence" was also the occasion for the emergence of Soviet doctrine expounding "war-waging" and "war-winning" scenarios, rather than the more benign ideas associated with "détente" and "war-avoidance".

Stalin believed that nuclear weapons had made "Clausewitzian thinking" irrelevant. It is a pity that Stalin's view has not been shared by his tough-minded successors.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
Reform Club,
Fell Mall, SW1.
October 20.

Out of step in the health service

From Mr N. P. Hayworth

Sir, Ten years ago "consensus management" was the order of the day. Now it's the reverse: strong leadership. Ten years hence it will be all change to a reaction from strong leadership.

Why is it necessary for every part of the health service to march in step? An alternative solution is to encourage experiment - different circumstances and personalities require different management solutions. After all, consensus management works very successfully in some health authorities.

Uniformity is bureaucratic tidiness, but I doubt if it produces effective management for all circumstances.

Yours sincerely,
N. P. HEYWORTH, Director,
The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy,
1 Buckingham Place, SW1.
October 27.

From Professor A. C. P. Sims

Sir, In your article (October 19) concerning cuts in the National Health Service what the three examples you cited from different parts of the country had in common was the withdrawal of facilities for the treatment of the mentally ill.

This is occurring in many places despite the Government's stated intention of protecting mental health services. Mental health is extremely vulnerable at present because health authorities are tempted to capitalize on the wholly laudable change of emphasis from institutional to community care by making economies on hospital wards but not reallocating the resources saved on the same scale for necessary developments in the community.

Yours sincerely,
A. C. P. SIMS,
The University of Leeds,
Department of Psychiatry,
St James's University Hospital,
Leeds.
October 21.

From Mr John Hilbourne

Sir, I am puzzled by the recommendations of the Griffiths report on efficiency in the National Health Service. I thought that the 1974 reorganization put through by Sir Keith Joseph and based on the work of McKinsey and Co had already taken advantage of the best business had to offer.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HILBOURNE,
Pen House,
Beckpool Road,
Frenchay,
Bristol,
Avon.
October 26.

Beinn Eighe plans

From Professor D. W. Harding

Sir, The award by the Council of Europe of its diploma to the Nature Conservancy Council for its management of the Beinn Eighe national nature reserve, and the recognition of the area as a wildlife habitat of international importance by the United Nations Man and Biosphere Programme (your report, October 22), serve to underline the insensitivity of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board's plans to develop the area immediately north of the Beinn Eighe reserve and the National Trust's estate at Torridon.

Proposals include the building of dams, aqueducts, roads and power stations by the rivers Talladale and Truagh, which flow into Loch Maree on its southern shore between Kinlochewe and the Loch Maree hotel.

The fact that the planned capacity of both schemes is at present only 9.5 megawatts hardly mitigates the damage which such a development will inflict on a unique environment and makes it scarcely credible that such an increase could not be accommodated within existing schemes elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. HARDING,
14 Drummond Place,
Edinburgh.
October 22.

Death in the forest

From Mr Recorder P. J. E. Jackson

Sir, From our balcony here, we can see for miles and the Black Forest appears as healthy and beautiful as ever. Acid rain is discussed locally, but I have seen no demonstration.

The foresters seem to have things well in hand and I am further reassured by Professor Kenneth Mellanby's letter in *The Times* on October 26.

Yours etc,
PETER J. E. JACKSON,
7298 Lossburg,
Kreis Freudenstadt,
Hauptstrasse 29,
West Germany.

Off the rails

From Mr Charles Mitchell

Sir, In his "Letter from Delhi" (October 20) your Correspondent writes of the procedure for locating one's seat on an Indian train. He fails to elaborate, however, on the potential nuances of this game.

Tactics encountered at Amritsar this summer were to confound the would-be English traveller by tying his name on the reservation list in Hindi (no mean feat, this), followed up by the awesome *comp de finesse* of removing the Tourist Quota carriage from the train altogether.

Doubtless an admirable precaution against British Rail spies! Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MITCHELL,
41 Green Park,
Cambridge.
October 21.

THE ARTS

Tonight at Covent Garden the distinguished Soviet film director Andrei Tarkovsky stages his first opera, *Boris Godunov*: John Higgins exclusively interviews him about it

Spectacle crystallized into inner drama



Photograph of Andrei Tarkovsky by Harry Kerr

Covent Garden took a long time to announce the production of their new *Boris Godunov*, which opens at the Royal Opera House tonight. For well over a year negotiations have been on, then off, and finally on again with Andrei Tarkovsky, the most distinguished Soviet film director of his generation. The negotiations finished by being on, and since the beginning of the month Tarkovsky has been in London working on the first opera he has staged.

There is still a certain amount of argument over who first persuaded Tarkovsky to desert the cinema temporarily for opera. He himself insists that Sir John Tooley, Covent Garden's general administrator, made the first official approach. But the instigator was almost certainly Boris's conductor, Claudio Abbado, whose interest in films is well known. The inspiration could well have been Tarkovsky's *Andrei Rublev*, which was made in the mid-Sixties but was not shown in the West until 1973. The story of the fifteenth-century Russian icon painter is not so far away from the period of *Boris*. But if the idea came from Abbado, who has not been heard at Covent Garden since 1975, then the persistence came from Sir John. And that looks like being rewarded.

However, opera-goers and Russian observers alike will note that it is

just over three years since Abbado conducted a major and controversial production of *Boris* at La Scala staged by another Soviet, Yuri Lyubimov, who was much in the news last month. Lyubimov presented *Boris* as a massive Slavonic church ritual on a single set, with the proceedings opened and closed by the monk-historian Pimen. Tarkovsky's approach is likely to be very different, but he is not prepared to make any comparisons because he did not see the work of his compatriot.

Tarkovsky, who is 50 this year, is a wiry man with a mop of hair, still unlicked by grey, which constantly has to be pushed out of his eyes. His features have a lined, lived-in look which makes him a little like Charles Bronson in non-pugilistic mood. With Abbado he talks Italian, acquired obviously while he was making his most recent film (to be shown in Britain later this week), *Nostalgie*, with others he speaks Russian and an interpreter.

"The proposal to work at Covent Garden was totally unexpected, but after reflection I realized that it could be interesting. I had not met Claudio Abbado before I was approached by Sir John Tooley, but it is very possible that Abbado knew *Rublev* and perhaps he thought that I would bring some of the principles of the cinema here to Covent

Garden. But film and theatre are totally different. When I work on stage my methods are never those of the film set.

"Let me say at once that I am not interested in the pomp that sometimes surrounds Mussorgsky's opera. My chief concern is with the inner drama of Boris himself, and I think that even if I were filming the opera I would still make it an intimate work. Let me say too that *Boris Godunov* has a special, and lonely, place in the repertoire. Italian opera is a genre unto itself so is German opera. *Boris* is set apart in that it is a marriage of music and play, Pushkin's of the same name. My belief is that Mussorgsky destroyed the building erected by Pushkin and then reassembled it, using every single stone, but in a different structure, Pushkin put up a city with a hierarchy, Mussorgsky made a palace."

There is no mention of the later modifications added by Rimsky-Korsakov because they will not be heard at Covent Garden. The version of the score will be that edited by David Lloyd-Jones, which was also the one Abbado used at La Scala. The conversation does, though, constantly revert to Pushkin.

"The most important scenes in the play and the opera, such as the death of Boris, are Shakespearean in

flavour. Boris is a tragic hero in the line of Macbeth and Lear. Maybe he is a clearer figure in Pushkin than in Mussorgsky because there are fewer characters in his way, but I want to probe into his psychology. I'm often accused of wishing to complicate everything and perhaps that criticism is right.

"At the centre of *Boris* is not the problem of power but of a man broken by power. It is about those who take on power and then find that they cannot handle it. It is also about conscience. Perhaps an alternative title for *Boris* would be 'Golos Boga' (The Voice of God), in other words 'The Voice of Conscience'. *Godunov* is a lonely man who talks only to Prince Shuisky, but as he talks he looks at Shuisky with horror because this is the man who will carry on the tradition of murder. As surely as Boris killed Dmitri at Uglich, so will Shuisky murder Feodor and Xenia, Boris's children. Crime begets crime." A decade ago David Robinson, writing on this page about *Andrei Rublev*, observed that "Tarkovsky's characteristic hero is always, it seems, a human being in an alien world". And that still appears to hold good.

Apart from Boris (sung by Robert Lloyd, the first Briton to play the role at Covent Garden) and Shuisky (Philip Langridge), Tarkovsky's

main concern has been with the Simpleton (Patrick Power). "That role is all too often completely misconceived. He tends to be presented as a 'character' and it is thought that the more 'personality' he has the better. On the contrary, he is a concept in the way that Prince Mishkin or Don Quixote is a concept. He too is alone and his job is to emphasize the error of the way the people decide to take. I want his face obscured throughout the opera, so he will have a sack over his head which he takes off only at the very end, facing away from the audience."

"Pushkin's play ends with the cry of 'Long live Shuisky!' and then comes the stage direction: 'The people remain silent'. Mussorgsky closes with the Simpleton and I see the removal of that sack as the most important gesture of the opera."

Our conversation closes, as it began, with Pushkin, who is up there in Tarkovsky's private pantheon along with Bach, Dostoevsky, Leonardo, Shakespeare and Tolstoy. His attention will now turn to Shakespeare and *Hamlet* in particular, which he is planning to film. Production details have been under discussion during the *Boris* rehearsal period.

● Riverside Studios are to run a retrospective of Tarkovsky's films from November 22 to 26.

PUBLISHING

Shotgun birth of the trade paperback

All paperbacks currently in the best-seller lists are priced between £1.75 (the slim-line *F-Plan Diet*, so you pay less for it) and £2.95: *The Oxford Dictionary* and last year's Booker Prize winner, *Schindler's Ark*. These books are in the best-seller lists not because they have soft covers, which they have, but because their courageous publishers printed as many copies as they did, thus allowing them to bring their prices right down.

At the other end of the scale are the new hardbacks, mostly between three and four times as expensive. As publishers increasingly have difficulty in selling serious books in hardback in sensible quantities, a new animal has been brought into being: the trade paperback. It is priced somewhere between a hardback and a mass-market, reprint paperback, and in size tends to be closer to the original edition. This is for the simple, logical reason that - assuming there is a hardback, which usually there still is - the trade paperback has been printed on the same quality of paper, at the same time and on the same machine as the hardback.

Trade paperbacks are here, but not necessarily to stay. The logic behind them is roughly akin to that which insists that a camel is a horse designed by committee. The reasoning, if it may be described, goes something like this: "Hardbacks are expensive, relatively speaking, and they are expensive not because they have stiff covers but because relatively few copies are printed. Mass-market paperbacks are cheap because many copies are printed, and large numbers are able to be printed (usually) because the existence of the hardback, a year or so before the paperback, has made the public aware of the book."

If we produce an animal somewhere between hardback and paperback, print two or three times the number of copies we would have dared do in hardback and sell them at roughly half the retail price, maybe the world will scent a bargain - or at least a decent deal - and buy.

I do not believe that the trade paperback will make lasting inroads there, rather than in the USA, where they order matters differently because, ultimately, if people really want or need a book they will buy it in hardback, or in mass-market paperback if it becomes available, or borrow it from their public libraries. Who wants an

E. J. Craddock

Theatre
Lovers Dancing
Albery

A playwright with *Staircase* and *Rain of a Simple Man* behind him has much to live up to. Charles Dyer earns our sympathy for that, but also our envy: it is no mean name that can secure a West End management, a good theatre and an all-star cast for this extraordinary piece, alternately rarefied and coarse, baffling expectation with its flatness, its real pathos, its flashes of brilliance and surreal portraiture set in a traditional framework of mixed-doubles comedy.

In *Staircase*'s cast of two, a gay relationship of many years' standing, Mr Dyer showed the weaker partner revealing itself as the stronger. *Lovers Dancing* pits an apparently faded couple (married) against a successful couple in the same way. The gentlemanly Paul Eddington and the brusquely thrusting Colin Blakely can pinpoint the moment when their paths diverged: the ballroom dancing tournament when Mr Eddington's trousers fell halfway round the floor.

What followed was marriage to each other's partners, Mr Blakely waiting off with a hideous silver cup, the glamorous Cheryl (Georgina Hale) and a winner's ruthlessness that duly brings wealth and glowing invitation to an annual celebration that dare not be refused by Mr Eddington and his sad wife (Jane Carr), their dreams shrunk by running the local chemist's shop.

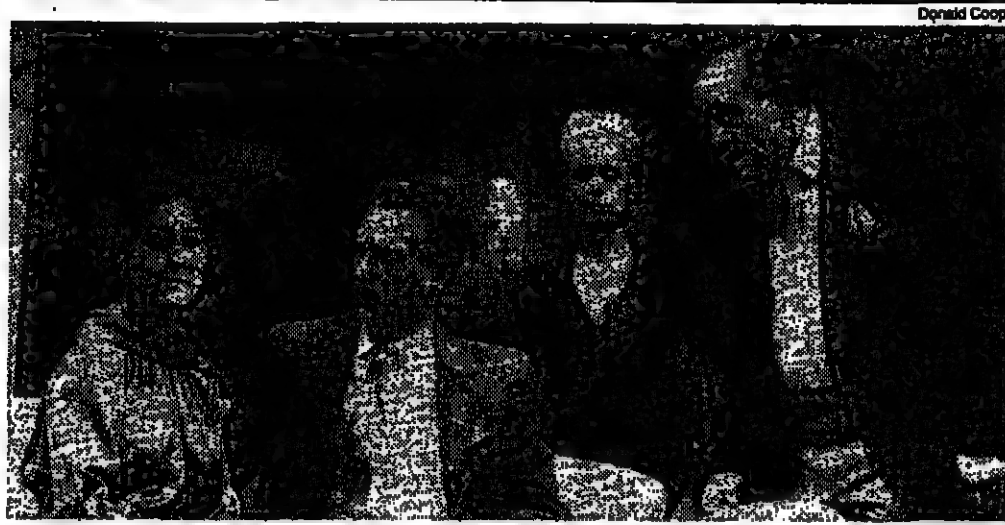
The successful are as unsatisfied as the failures and a good deal guiltier. Left alone with the ex-medical chemist, Mr Blakely immediately confides fears of impotence, fury at his wife's habit of painting young soldiers in the nude, and worries about his unconvincing abundance of umbilical fluff (a typical detail). All are tormented by the need to shine.

The moment they are still supposedly celebrating 19 years later seems with still-festering doubts: who deliberately frayed the trouser buttons Mr Eddington's future depended on, who sired the child that Miss Hale conceived in a muddled four-in-a-bed night? She kept him, with all the other prizes, but the failures' life is not as sterile as it seems.

In tone and style, though, the play brings unpleasant surprises. Artificial, heightened language such as humans never spoke: Mr Dyer has not lost his gift for a fresh poetic phrase (a

Was Jonathan Miller overcome by a fit of morality at the end of his new production of *The Beggar's Opera* (BBC2)? Instead of saving the anti-hero Macheath from the hangman's noose because of the Beggar's plea that the audience needs a happy ending, he sent Macheath swinging while the matter was still under discussion.

It was the only trick in a production which started more for its precise faithfulness to the period and mood of the original than for any revelatory redating: I am surprised Miller was not tempted by the glamorously vicious London crime scene of the 1960s. But here the music came first: gone was the folksy



Range of reaction: Jane Carr (left), Paul Eddington, Georgina Hale, Colin Blakely

perturbed character "feels as though all his nerve ends were gossipping" but much of it is embarrassingly unspeakable and sits uncomfortably among the coarsenesses.

Finding naturalistic impersonation impossible, the cast react variously: Mr Eddington remains a ministerial dignity, Mr Blakely barks out the tortured prose defiantly, Miss Carr retreats into poisonous princess and Miss Hale goes squawkingly and posturingly right over the top. What is her accent? A sour cocktail of Deep South, Home Counties and heaven knows what.

A curious silence descended on the audience as they tried vainly to explain it, nor did her reminiscences of a dockland childhood floating boats in pools of horses' urine do much to clear up the mystery.

The script fails, possibly does not even try, to achieve the kind of pathos through laughter that was such an appealing feature of *Staircase*, though several of that play's unfunny lines are rehashed and look no better for the experience. Donald McWhinnie, the director, had an unenviable task. Even the funniest moments, such as Miss Hale settling herself amid her frothing pink petticoats as if lounging in a bubble bath, suggest either the blackness of opulence or the corrosiveness of failure. Neither, in the long run, is a laughing matter.

Anthony Masters

Francis
Greenwich

The secular public has always had a soft spot for St Francis of Assisi; but, whether or not this factor weighed with Julian Mitchell in choosing him as a

hero, his play is calculated to inflame the prejudices of non-Catholic spectators.

Francis is a stage biography in a manner that would have looked dated to Dorothy L. Sayers. The heart sinks at the first moments of David Williams' production when a group of Dark-Age rowdies burst in, roaring a drinking song in strict organon, and referring to the absent Francis as "the best master of reveals we've ever had".

The missing tearaway then appears, having just undergone a lightning conversion, and kissed a leper, whereupon his cronies sink away leaving Francis to receive further instruction from an illuminated crucifix. Church repair is the first job, and he sets to with a will by putting the altar back in place - a simple task as it seems to be made of plywood.

In no time, Francis has gathered converts to his new order, and is preaching to the birds. Rome has doubts, but, as his rule of total poverty is taken literally from the Gospels, it gets papal approval, "orthodox enthusiasm" always being welcome.

Then, the backsliding begins. Some brothers start having an unhealthy interest in getting a roof over their heads, and owning things like psalters. And what should they do with beans that have to be soaked overnight if they are forbidden to take any thought of the morrow?

For a while, Francis brushes these obstacles aside, but as his order grows, sending missions around Europe, and taking Francis himself to the Crusades, the original band of beggar preachers turns into a corporate establishment. Disillusioned, Francis disowns it and, when we last see him, his naked body is being loaded with all the

pomp and mythology of the church.

If Mr Mitchell intended this as a parable on the fate of successful visionaries, all it has to say is that talented ideas-men are apt to get engulfed in administration, and that the revisionists win in the end. Can the author of *Another Country* be saying anything as elementary as that?

If, on the other hand, this is a devotional play, it is not going to lead any non-believers into the fold. Francis has one excellent early scene when, brought to a clerical court by his father for theft, he not only repays the money but renounces his inheritance by stripping naked. But, thereafter, he appears not simply as an intransigent idealist but as a classic case of Christ-fixated lunacy.

Even in his ecstatic early days, radiating seraphic love as he instructs us to change our lives, there is nothing to suggest his spell over the hearers. And, as time and disillusion close in, his enthusiasm changes into wrath and loathing.

On one side, the play sets out to discredit the church authorities for betraying him. On the other, it does a hatchet job on Francis himself, dwelling gloatingly on suppurating flesh and physical anguish and allowing his love of God to express itself through a fixed hatred for earthly life.

Kenneth Branagh is a marvellous young actor, but the lack of anything approaching ordinary human feeling - apart from a few scattered gags, and a well-motivated dislike for his human father - confines his performance to one of showy rhetoric. Christopher Hancock, Frederick Treves and other good actors are likewise left clutching stereotypes.

Irving Wardle

passionate in temper; and Rosemary Ashe's Lucy, small and fierce, who suddenly blossomed in one of Purcell's three superb melodies. Isla Blair was a sinister, serious Jenny. The arrangements by Jeremy Barlow were uncluttered; John Eliot Gardiner conducted the baroque band crisply.

In *Juliet Bravo* (BBC1) an overwrought policeman started punching a man in a hospital waiting room. In *Peeping Tom* (BBC1), the chilling 1960 movie, girls were killed by a man as he filmed them. What a civilized place Hogarth's London was.

Nicholas Kenyon

Television

Faith in music

prissiness of the familiar Dent and Britten versions of the score. I did not count, but most of the 69 original songs seemed to be included.

Gay worked a revolution in 1728 with this *Hundred Best Tunes* score by actually making his actors sing, not leaving the music to self-contained interludes. The plucky actors in Dr Jonathan's show sang the modest tunes with modest skill. Roger Daltrey's much-heard-

ed Macheath turned out to be mainly swagger and girl-propping: he hit his songs with a blunt instrument. Stratford John's policeman-turned-Peachum troled easily through the melodies; Peter Bayliss's Lockit, given a doubling bassoon in the orchestra, was incomparably grotesque.

The best match of voice and acting came from Macheath's two rival loves: Carol Hall's Polly, pure of voice but

would otherwise lack while Michael and Ridgeley's slender talent is also occasionally disguised by the efforts of their smart dancing partners, Shirley and Pepsi.

Michael attempted a couple of soul ballads during the set; his solo single "Careless Whisper" suggested a more thoughtful direction. For now Wham! are living proof of the old blues maxim: the men do not know, but the little girls understand.

Max Bell

Rock

Wham!

Hammersmith Odeon

Watching Wham! perform live confirms the suspicion that 1983 has marked the return of the teenybopper. Wham! fans, the majority young girls, possess all the characteristics that define the type: they scream constantly, they know all the words, they cling to each other for comfort and their parents are waiting in the theatre foyer to whisk them back to bed afterwards.

Wham! are in the same tradition that spawned Bobbie Soxers and Beatlemania. Managed by the Sixties Svengali Simon Napier Bell, they are rehearsed to act out fantasy on a slick display, repeating "Bad Boys" "When Rags" "Enjoy What You Do" and "Young Guns (Go For It)" until every last exclamation mark has been rapped home.

The show is made nearly bearable by session men who give the songs a credibility they

could otherwise lack while Michael and Ridgeley's slender talent is also occasionally disguised by the efforts of their smart dancing partners, Shirley and Pepsi.

Michael attempted a couple of soul ballads during the set; his solo single "Careless Whisper" suggested a more thoughtful direction. For now Wham! are living proof of the old blues maxim: the men do not know, but the little girls understand.

Max Bell

Concert

Hysterical precision

BBCSO/Tabachnik
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Perhaps one should refrain from comparisons at so early a stage, but my goodness there was a lot more life in Friday's opening concert of the Music of Eight Decades series that has so far appeared in the companion Great British Music Festival. There was also a lot more death, with the main work being Ligeti's massively solemn and hysterically funny, or massively funny and hysterically solemn, *Regnum* of the mid-Sixties.

Michael Tabachnik conducted a clean, clear, evenly-paced performance of this wholly extraordinary piece, recognizing that the drama and the absurdity depend on the most exact precision. The first movement's slowly rising cloud was utterly cold, and so all the more alien and - awesome. Possibly the Kyrie, mumbled by shifting mobs of choral voices, was more effective for radio listeners: the sight of ranks of black-clothed ladies and gentlemen does detract from one's sense of the heedless crowd. But the Dies Irae is so rich in the comic macabre that no visual formality can keep it in check, especially when its nice thrusts of terror and mockery are being placed with such accuracy as they were here.

Sarah Walker was the strong mezzo soloist, and Dorothy Dorow carefully filled in the musical high screams for an indisposed Phyllis Bryn-Julson. Both were nicely spiritualized in the short last movement, where

they appear as sole survivors of Armageddon.

From the same period of frenetic, explosive activity in the dying avant garde we had the Cello Concerto by Bernd Alois Zimmermann, a work which pulled off the remarkable feat of making Boulez dance with Henze. Here were flashes and fountains of pitched percussion music from the Frenchman's recent *Eclair*; there were the decadent jazz undertones of Zimmermann's German contemporary. And, through it all, was threaded a line of intense virtuosity for the soloist, which Heinrich Schiff made into a keen, pared down, incisive display of musicianship.

The concerto's balletic scenario - it is a triptych of imaginary triple encounters among varied personages - may have remained obscure, but the cross-play of characterful musical statements was thoroughly aroused, and the work revealed as one of this puzzling composer's most perfectly achieved, triumphant in its oddity and unconnectedness.

Before this, we had heard Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* given almost equally colourful treatment. The BBC may not field the most virtuoso string orchestra in the world, but Mr Tabachnik's warm lead was followed with impressive honesty and endeavour and many individual beauties of texture, harmony and tune had the space to shine in a performance of thoughtful slowness.

Paul Griffiths

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
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Telephone 01-337 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

Friday's close and change on week

FT Index: 691.1 up 1.3
FT 100: 81.70 up 0.1
FT All Share: 431.09 up 0.16
Bargains: 18.847
Dataseam US Leaders: Index 93.8 up 0.8
New York: Dow Jones Average (close) 1223.48 down 25.4
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,321.37 down 48.84
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 826.0 up 41.08
Amsterdam: 145.2 down 4.1
Sydney: AO Index 682.7 down 5.8
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1006.9 up 6.9
Brussels: General Index 122.73 down 2.51
Paris: CAC Index 141.3 up 1.6
Zurich: SKA General 291.9 up 0.4

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling: \$1.4955 down 65pts
Index 83.5 up 0.2
DM 3.9225 up 0.0425
FF 11.9350 up 0.094
Yen 348.25 down 1.0
Dollar: Index 126.2 up 0.8
DM 2.6210
NEW YORK CLOSE
Sterling: \$1.4957
Dollar DM 2.6210
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: 0.576905
SORE: 70.9991

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9.8-9
3 month interbank 9.8-9.16
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9.16-9.18
3 month DM 5.8-5.84
3 month FF 11.2-12.4
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9.8
Treasury long bond 100/32-102/32
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling:
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period September 7 to October 4, 1983 inclusive: 9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
an \$387.25 pm \$384.50
close \$386.50 (\$256.50)
New York (close) \$386.50
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$388-399.50 (\$266-267)
Sovereigns (new):
\$90-91 (\$60.25-65)
*Excludes VAT

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Arbuthnot Sterling Fund, Scott and Robertson, Yate, of Leeds, Vitor Resources Trust. **Finals:** Cranphorn, Stothert and Pitt. **TOMORROW - Interims:** Clement Clarke Flight Refuelling, Reed International. **Finals:** A & G Security Electronics, British Car Auction. **WEDNESDAY - Interims:** Ellis and Goldstein. **Finals:** Peters Stores, Pineapple Dance Studios, Sate-guard Industrial Investments, Wotsey-Hutley. **THURSDAY - Interims:** Henry Boot, Computer and Systems Engineering, Fleming Far Eastern Investment Trust, Hambro Investment Trust, Hoover (Central), Millets Leisure Shops, Northern Securities Trust, Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers. **Finals:** Berry Trust, Intervention Video Wemyss Investment Trust. **FRIDAY - Final:** W. Tzack, Sons and Turner.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

TODAY - Epure Holdings, The Charing Cross Hotel, WC2 (noon): The Globe & Phoenix Gold Mining Company, 24, Giltspur Street, London. **W1 (noon):** Industrial Finance & Investment Corporation, The Armourers Hall 81 Coleman Street, EC2 (noon). **Jo Holdings, 20 Fenchurch Street EC3 (noon):** W E Norton (Holdings), Brown Stapley & Company, Founders Club, Lombard Street EC2 (noon). **TOMORROW - FMC, Agriculture House 25/31 Knightsbridge SW1 (noon):** Mills & Allen International, The Gaziers Hall 9 Monague Close London Bridge SW1 (noon). **Scottish & Mercantile Investment, The Great Eastern Hotel EC2 (noon):** **WEDNESDAY - Consolidated Gold Fields, Hotel Inter Continental Grand Ballroom Entrance One Hammarby Place W1 (11.30):** **THURSDAY - Anvil Petroleum, The Cafe Royal 68 Regent Street: W1 (noon):** Westpool Investment Trust, Carlton House 33 Robert Adam Street W1 (5.00). **FRIDAY - Adelphi Group, The Dorchester Hotel Park Lane (noon):** Meat Trade Suppliers, Metrol House 62/68 St John Street, EC1 (12.30).

Optimism based on improving profitability of industry

LBS forecasts sustainable recovery with fewer jobless and 6% inflation

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Britain is set on a course of sustainable recovery over the next few years, with falling unemployment and no resurgence in inflation, the London Business School says in its latest economic forecasts published today.

It is predicting 2 to 2½ per cent growth in 1984 and 1985 after more than 2½ per cent this year, inflation settling at around 6 per cent, and unemployment falling from an average of 3 million next year to 2½ million in 1987.

The LBS, whose thinking on the economy closely matches that of Treasury ministers, is among the more optimistic of outside forecasters, many of whom have been predicting a marked slowdown in economic growth next year.

But Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has dismissed these misgivings and there are signs that City sentiment is beginning to turn his way.

The main reason for this is the outlook for inflation, where fears that price rises would accelerate next year are fading. Mr Lawson said in his Mansion House speech recently that the latest economic indicators point-

ed to a downward path for inflation next year. This would raise people's purchasing power and help maintain the momentum of consumer spending.

In a reappraisal of inflation prospects released today, James Capel, the stockbroking firm, suggests that the pace of price rises will peak at 6 per cent next spring and fall to 4½ per cent by the end of 1984, well below the 5½ per cent expected this Christmas. This view is, however, not shared by Capel-Cure Myers, which sees inflation

levelling at 6 to 6½ per cent in 1984.

The LBS optimism, like that of the Chancellor, is based on the improving profitability of British industry. The LBS expects the 20 per cent profits rise this year and next to generate a 6½ per cent increase in private non-residential investment in 1984, which takes over from consumer spending as the main driving force behind the recovery.

The LBS also expects less demand to be syphoned off by

imports and a pick-up in exports next year.

In a special article, Mr Bill Robinson and Mr Geoffrey Dicks blame manufacturing job losses over the past 15 years on rising industrial costs and the tendency of real wages to outstrip productivity growth. They urge the Government to reverse the trend by running tighter fiscal policies to bring down interest rates and hence the exchange rate, cutting costs and boosting competitiveness.

The latest LBS forecasts do not depend on any government stimulus to the economy. They assume that the Chancellor will in future try to hit his targets with a tighter fiscal policy and lower interest rates. This would leave room for tax cuts only if the Government managed against the odds to hold to its published spending.

In an article in *The Director* today, Mr Gordon Pepper, the influential stockbroker economist, says that there can be a sustained economic recovery and a fall in unemployment if the Government allows the money supply to grow in real terms, Jonathan Davis writes.

Mr Pepper, a partner of W Greenwell, argues that the Government will probably tolerate growth in the real money supply of at least 4 per cent a year, while still sticking to its borrowing and public spending targets.

If this sort of rate is not being achieved, Mr Pepper believes the Government will cut interest rates in order to sustain the momentum of the recovery, even if this means being "relaxed" about nominal monetary growth exceeding its target.

CBI warning expected on upturn

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The main conclusions likely to be drawn from the latest quarterly trends survey of the Confederation of British Industry are that Britain's economic recovery is still slowly gathering pace and should, continue into next year, and that exports look to be picking up after a poor summer.

The survey, to be published tomorrow, is also expected to confirm the concern of CBI leaders that growth could peter

out next year unless there are new measures to stimulate industrial activity.

Ministerial approval, particularly from the drier members of the Cabinet, should be more forthcoming, for the results on Friday of an Institute of Directors business opinion survey, the first of a bi-monthly series.

The first survey is expected to reveal a greater degree of cautious optimism

that the recovery was under way, but CBI leaders have advocated caution.

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Wood Mackenzie in talks with Exco

By Jeremy Warner

Exco International has narrowed the field of stockbroking firms it is seriously interested in merging with down to one - the big Edinburgh firm of Wood Mackenzie.

Talks between Exco's chief executive, Mr John Gunn, and a Wood Mackenzie senior partner, Mr John Chene, have moved off the preliminary stage, though no announcement of the form which any association will take is likely this year.

Wood Mackenzie is one of a large number of City broking firms which are talking to outsiders about possible links and the consequences of the relaxation of Stock Exchange rules that has been agreed with the Government.

It was confirmed last week that Midland Bank is in serious talks with at least one of the big London firms, while Exco's computer as a broadly based financial services group, Mercantile House, is also known to be talking about links with several other brokers.

A recent survey on stockbroking, commission income placed Wood Mackenzie as the fifth largest stockbrokers overall and the second largest in British institutional equities. Exco already owns W Carr Overseas, an international stockbroking firm with a strong presence in Far Eastern markets, and this will be of interest to Wood



Gunn, merger prospects narrowed down to one company.

Mackenzie in its quest for business outside Britain.

There is also a natural affinity between Wood Mackenzie's rapidly developing performance measurement service and Exco's 51 per cent interest in Telecarte, the United States financial information service.

A big hurdle in the talks is likely to be Exco's stated aim of eventually owning 100 per cent of any British stockbroker, it forms important links with.

Present Stock Exchange rules do not allow outsiders to own any more than 30 per cent of a stockbroking firm, while there is a clear reluctance among the Edinburgh firm's 37 partners to sell out entirely.

Holiday groups set to merge

By Derek Harris

An agreed bid worth between £5m and £6m by Hogg Robinson Travel for Wakefield Fortune Travel is expected to be announced this week. It would make Hogg Robinson Travel, part of the Hogg Robinson insurance group, the third largest travel agency chain in Britain, closely challenging Thomas Cook and Pickfords Travel.

Talks between Hogg Robinson and Holland America Line (HAL), Wakefield's privately owned parent company, which has strong Netherlands connections, have been going on for at least 10 weeks.

But except for a few final details, including a property assessment of Wakefield's 95 travel outlets, most difficulties appear to have been ironed out. It has paved the way for a likely announcement by the end of this week.

Hogg Robinson has rather fewer travel outlets than Wakefield but tops Wakefield's turnover of around £100m by almost £50m. Individually both lag well behind Thomas Cook and Pickford, each of which has more than 200 outlets.

The Hogg Robinson and Wakefield outlets are largely complementary geographically with less than half a dozen overlapping locations.

Wakefield is strong in conurbations like London and those in the West Midlands, the North West and in Yorkshire plus a group of outlets in Glasgow. Apart from central London, Hogg Robinson takes in a big swathe of the South-east as far as the south coast.

Although Wakefield is profitable at the trading level, it is still not making any bottom line contributions to its parent because it is working off losses incurred up to three years ago and is also servicing recent heavy investments.

There has been considerable spending on computerization and early this year it bought Blue Star Travel, a subsidiary of Blue Star Line. This believed to have cost rather more than £2m.

Wakefield's expectation was to be near break-even next year, running into bottom line profit the following year.

HAL itself has been running into losses. Intense competition in the North American cruise market, in which HAL is heavily involved, has been eroding profitability.

Pension association seeks power to expel

By Philip Robinson

The National Association of Pension Funds is seeking power to expel members for bad behaviour, malpractice or breaching the Trust Laws - the only legal control on the funds and their managers.

The association wants approval from its 2,000 members at an extraordinary meeting on November 9. The move comes at a crucial time for the industry. The NAPF has been privately criticized for lack of authority and initiative and the regulation of funds by either themselves or a Government is the subject of debate.

Last week, Mr Alex Fletcher, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, made it clear during a conference on self-regulation that all organizations dealing with investments must be accountable to someone. They would either regulate themselves or come under government supervision, he said.

Important pension funds are also growing restless at the lack of an effective organization for parliamentary lobbying.

He mentioned the Pensions industry specifically as an area where proper accountability had not been established.

Professor Jim Gower, whose report on regulation of City institutions due out within a month, recommended a Pensions Act to govern the industry in his interim report last year.

The NAPF sees no need for an additional statute to govern the behaviour of its members and points out that fund managers are responsible to pension fund trustees which are in turn governed by the Trust Acts.

But the NAPF has been criticized for not being representative of the industry and the local authority pension funds want to be admitted to membership of the NAPF executive.

Important pension funds are also growing restless at the lack of an effective organization for parliamentary lobbying.

Eagle board unlikely to take up Allianz offer

By Our Financial Staff

An offer by Allianz Versicherungs, West Germany's leading insurer, to call off its £692m takeover bid for Eagle Star at the earliest opportunity in return for seats on the Eagle Star board, is likely to be firmly rebuffed.

"We have received no offers of this sort, which suggests it cannot be seriously intended," Mr Christopher Roshier, of Eagle Star's merchant bank adviser, Hill Samuel, said yesterday.

He also stressed that an offer made some time ago to the German east of two seats on the board would still be open if Allianz were prepared to accept the conditions laid down then.

These included undertakings not to bid while representatives were on the board or for 12 months after their departure and not to use the access to confidential information that

being a director of Eagle Star would give for Allianz's own trading purposes.

There is no reason to suppose that Allianz would be any keener now to accept these conditions than it was then.

The Office of Fair Trading was told by Allianz last week that it would prefer to take its stake in Eagle Star to 40 per cent and win boardroom representation to a full merger.

But it is clear that the two sides are as far away from any form of agreement on how the two groups can move forward in harmony as they ever were.

This is likely to become an increasingly important feature of the OFT's deliberations on whether to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since fierce management opposition to takeover often tips the balance of argument in favour of reference

Theakston attracts third bid

By Derek Pain

The takeover struggle for control of T & R Theakston, the Yorkshire brewery, is becoming more and more peculiar.

Theakston, famed for its Old Peculier strong beer, as already attracted the takeover attentions of Mr Michael Abrahamson - the textile tycoon who turned ground the AW (Securities) carpet group in the 1960's - and Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewer.

Now another, unidentified brewery has put in a takeover bid which apparently tops the Matthew Brown offer of 64p a share, pricing Theakston at £2.7m.

Keen interest in the Yorkshire brewery has also been expressed by an individual who is not a member of the "beverage".

The Theakston takeover fight has become increasingly complicated with the founding Theakston family as well as the board split. The first proposal, came from Mr Abrahamson.

But this deal was not to the taste of Mr Paul Theakston, chairman, who arranged for Brown to make a bid.

Taking the lid off the rising yen

Any moves to make the yen more widely used as an international currency - as part of Japan's programme to open up its international trading system - could have a more immediate impact on Britain than its major exporting competitors.

Britain is negotiating 40 foreign deals worth more than £2,000m which it plans to finance in yen.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department signalled its readiness to guarantee yen-financed contracts - which offer considerable savings to overseas buyers outside Japan by taking advantage of much lower interest rates on the Tokyo money markets - in June last year. But it has yet to insure its

first yen deal, and 20 other contracts have since lapsed.

The problem for Britain, the world leader in the business of foreign currency financing of exports, is that it has been far too adventurous by quoting in yen.

On paper, the advantages accrue mainly to countries which are generating yen inflows through their own sales to Japan, which generally means developing nations.

Under the latest consensus arrangements concluded this month - which covers minimum interest rates for exports of capital goods to developing countries - rates as low as 8.5 per cent could be offered. Under the new terms, two to five year deals for most developing

countries would attract a 10.35 per cent interest rate.

In practice, with most trading nations expecting the US dollar to drop in value, buyers have been too frightened to sign yen deals. They are expecting the Japanese currency to harden and if the yen does rise steadily in value over the next few years, they also see the revenue they earn from Japan being worth that much more.

If however, the Japanese Government is now willing to allow its currency to be more exposed to international business, chances of third country buyers being willing to accept yen-financed purchases will receive a significant psychological boost.

Japan Air Lines are taking on new executives every day

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Saturday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Sunday
Sunday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Monday
Monday	Heathrow - Moscow - Tokyo - Osaka	Tuesday
Tuesday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Wednesday
Wednesday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Thursday
Thursday	Heathrow - Copenhagen - Tokyo - Osaka	Friday

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BP offshoot begins Arctic drilling

From David Young, Deadhorse, Alaska

Sohio's great Alaskan gamble

At midnight tonight the Alaskan government will give BP's US associate company the go-ahead to start a \$30m (£20m) drilling programme in the sea 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle.

The drilling will start at a minute past midnight in 48 feet of water from an artificial island built from gravel at a cost of \$100m. Sohio, which is 53 per cent owned by BP, to drill \$27m for the lease to pay at the site, 30 miles off the existing Prudhoe Bay oilfield.

By December 10 the drilling team will know if the artificial island, now named Mukluk and surrounded by pack ice, is sitting above what is estimated to be an oil field half the size of Prudhoe Bay.

With Prudhoe Bay accounting for 10 per cent of US oil reserves, the potential of Mukluk is enormous and would keep Sohio, which effectively means BP, among the world's main producers when the Prudhoe field moves off peak

production towards the end of the century.

Sohio's Alaskan drilling manager Mr Dick Jones, who has been transferred from BP's North Sea team, said: "This could be one of the world's great oilfields. By December 10 we should reach the depth where we think we will hit oil. By mid January we should know the potential oil reserves in the field."

If the Mukluk project does hit oil it will lead to a new boom in Alaska, where the local economy has been transformed since BP first found oil in the late 1960s. At present, 19 of the 35 drilling rigs in Alaska are idle.

New production facilities will be needed and more artificial islands built. A total of 300 wells could be needed on Mukluk with as many as 25 gravel islands.

Production on Mukluk would bring new environmental problems. On shore Prudhoe Bay and along 800 miles of the trans-Alaskan pipeline measures to protect the wild life

added billions of dollars to project costs.

The Bowhead whale, which passes Mukluk twice a year on its annual migration before the sea freezes over completely, will mean drilling will have to be stopped for two months.

The Sohio engineering team, recognized as the world leader in research into the whale's habits, estimates that there are only 3,852 Bowhead whales left.

Mr Jones said: "There are fears that vibration from the rigs could affect the whales. We also have problems with polar bears turning up at the drill sites but our main problem is ice."

"We have a US Navy hovercraft coming soon for evaluation and because we will be able to go straight from the shore to the island across patches of unstable ice we should be able to save time and money in the drilling programme."

However, Sohio is aware that previous exploration in both the

Alaskan and Canadian sectors of the Beaufort Sea have yet to find significant amounts of oil.

Mr Richard Hubbard, a BP geologist, said: "The Mukluk structure is similar to Prudhoe Bay, but no one can make an assumption about production possibilities until we drill the Mukluk well. Even with new scientific aids the oil business is still a very risky business."

● Peking. (Reuter) - Five foreign oil companies, from the United States, Japan and Britain, have signed contracts to explore and develop China's offshore oil reserves, according to the New China News Agency.

A consortium grouping the Japan National Oil Corporation and the US companies Getty Oil International (Orient), Sun Orient Exploration and Texas Eastern Orient have been allocated a block in the Pearl River mouth basin. Britain's independent Cluff Oil is to drill in the northern part of the South Yellow Sea.

Jump take-off nearly grounded by firm going

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

As another flat racing season staggers towards its close, the new jumping season is being bedevilled by firm ground, just when it should be taking off. At Ascot on Saturday conversation inevitably turned to the lack of runners - there were only 11 for the three steeplechases there - the going and the need for rain.

Owners, trainers and their staff, jockeys, clerks of courses, stewards and racegoers are all in the same boat as far as this predicament is concerned because they all want the perfect world.

It is certainly no fun for owners to fork out £100 a week and more to have a horse in training and not see it run. Nor is it any better for trainers to have to wrap their charges up in cotton wool.

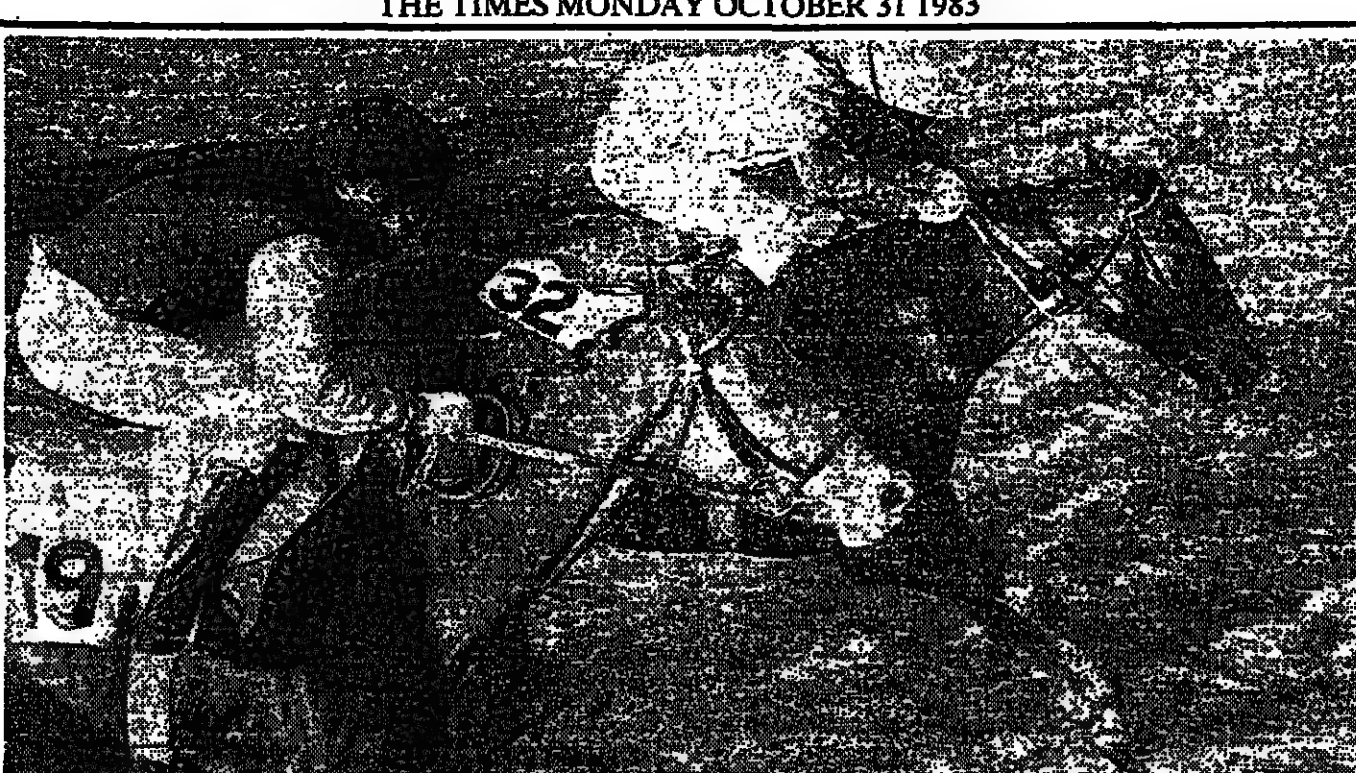
Clerks of courses can only go so far in their attempt to produce ideal ground. There was wonderful cover at Ascot and Cheltenham last week but it was undeniably firm underneath. Watering is all very well in mid summer when a good growth of grass is essential but anyone with knowledge of turf husbandry will tell you that with the winter just around the corner it would be utter madness to tamper with the water table now.

Sadly, it is a case of sitting and suffering. At least most trainers are able to fall back upon all-weather gallops nowadays although they concede that there is no real substitute for a good old-fashioned gallop on the grass.

Mrs Merry Rimell said at Ascot that the horses that she trains at Kinnerley have not exercised on grass for the past 10 days because the ground has become so firm. Mrs Rimell wants to run her Champion hurdler Gay Brie in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newmarket on a fortnight, but she will not hesitate pulling him out if the ground is so firm that it could jeopardise the rest of his season. "I have never run him on firm ground and I do not intend to now. There are plenty of other opportunities in the pipeline. We will just have to be patient," Mrs Rimell said.

In Western Rose Mrs Rimell has always had a horse who has never been averse to firm ground. On Saturday he made a big contribution towards his keep when winning the Crookford's Trophy. Unfortunately, the race was ruined as a spectacle when the only other runner, Artifice, fell at the third fence. Those who abide by the old saying "back the outsider of three" and of Eddery, were not a few judged by the applause - had something to crow about after approaching had won the Bagshot Handicap Steeplechase.

Regardless of the fact that the favourite, Half Free, fell and the only other runner, Quarto, lost interest after a bad mistake, this result can only have been a serious shot in the arm for approaching's owner, Derek Wigan, who is currently in hospital recovering from an operation.



A Ben Hanbury one-two: Travel Away beats her stable companion Nonpareil in the Balaton Lodge Stakes at Newmarket

Approaching was Josh Gifford's second winner of the afternoon as earlier the jockey Paul Nicholls had won the Embassy Premier Steeplechase (qualifier) with Homestead, who just managed to hold the promising West Tip at bay. At Wetherby another chapter in the Michael Dickinson success story was written when The Mighty Mac and Wayward Lad won their races very easily indeed. In each case their jumping was a revelation. After three quick wins in succession, The Mighty Mac has earned a short break but Wayward Lad

will be back in the thick of things at Hereford on November 8 as part of his build up for a second crack at the King George VII Steeplechase, which he won last year.

His stable companion Silver Buck, who won the same big Boxing Day race at Kempton in 1979 and 1980, will begin his season in earnest at Folkestone on November 14, leaving Captain John free to go to Kelso two days later.

While Dickinson was predictably stealing the limelight at Wetherby Hywel Davies was unquestionably the man of the

Smyth dances Irish jig on final green

By Mitchell Platts, Barcelona

With an Irish jig of joy on the final green, Des Smyth celebrated his return to the winners enclosure on the El Prat course here yesterday. He held a 7th put to claim the £13,330 first prize from the Sanyo Open after a marathon event involving 36 holes. Both the third round, abandoned on Saturday after torrential rain, and the fourth round were played with Smyth emerging victorious after eight hours the course punctuated only by a light snack at lunchtime.

For Smyth, who put together closing rounds of 70 and 71 for a winning aggregate of 297, this success provided a marvelous final to an astonishing tournament. He had a hole-in-one at the 17th, and won a £18,000 Volvo car. So with the winning cheque safely deposited in his wallet, his earnings for the week amount to more than £30,000. Since he had not won for more than two years and his earnings before this tournament were £16,528 for the season, it was no wonder that he danced that jig.

Smyth played a flawless golf throughout most of the day yet it was no easy task for him to win. He began on the practice ground at 7 o'clock, shivering in the cold air before the sun finally rose to clear the morning clouds but moved away, and he stepped on the first tee with a two stroke advantage over Michael Miller.

Smyth retained his lead with a third round of 70, which included six birdies but, by that time, Eamonn Darcy had loomed up as his nearest rival, following a 67. Garry Cullen and Miller, who scored 68 and 72 respectively, were next in line four strokes behind the leader.

Even so, it was to be Mark James and the South African Hugh Baiocchi who were to emerge in the afternoon as the danger men to Smyth. The Irishman was an eyewitness to the progress of Baiocchi since they were paired together. But ahead of them, James

set the target with a 66 for an eight hole out of 280. James might have set Smyth a steeper task with a little fortune over those closing six holes for at the last two he twice played exquisite chips and left the ball no more than half a roll from the hole for birdies.

Smyth had taken 37 to reach the turn, and he had fallen back to seven to seven from 12. However he holed from 88 for a birdie at the long 11th and then, after twice saving his pars with single putts, he managed another at the 15th (345 yards) where he made a put of some 14ft.

That put Smyth back on top of the leader board, but by that time Baiocchi was en route to a remarkable 64. The South African collected five birdies in an outward 32, and eagle three at the long 11th, and then another birdie at the 12th. At the 17th, where Smyth missed from 10ft, Baiocchi successfully holed from 18ft to go to seven under par.

Smyth struck a huge drive down the last fairway but his approach with a wedge was weak, and he left the ball 40ft short of the flag. From there, he punted up the two-tier green to seven feet from the hole. Baiocchi, who returned from Johannesburg only this week, made another amazing putt from 15ft which left Smyth knowing that he had a hole at to avoid a three-way play-off. The ball caught the left edge of the hole before disappearing and leaving Smyth's Irish eyes smiling.

Final scores (28 unless stated): 278, D. Smyth (Irish) 72, 68, 71 (213); 280, M. James 70, 73, 68, 67 (286); 281, H. Baiocchi (S.A.) 64, 72, 70, 75 (271); 282, G. Cullen (Ire) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 283, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 284, G. Cullen (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 285, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 286, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 287, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 288, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 289, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 290, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 291, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 292, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 293, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 294, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 295, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 296, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 297, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 298, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 299, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 300, J. Miller (S.A.) 72, 73, 70, 73 (288); 301, J. 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